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# COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

## SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ending 31st December, 1945

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

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ROCHDALE :  
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**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of  
the County Borough of Rochdale.**

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the instructions received from the Ministry of Health this Report has again been much curtailed. The Minister, however, has requested that reference be made to Tuberculosis (including the Allowances Scheme), Venereal Diseases (including tracing of contacts and follow-up of defaulters), the care of premature infants and of illegitimate children, and the steps taken to combat infestation. The usual arrangements have been continued to ensure that full statistics will be available.

The first portion of the Report is statistical in character. The Birth Rate is decreased as compared with last year, but remains above the average for the previous ten years. The Death Rate is increased as compared with last year and approximates very closely to the average for the preceding ten years. So far as Infantile Mortality is concerned the year 1943 produced a record low figure, closely followed by 1944 with the second lowest figure. Both these figures have been improved upon this year. These three taken together reveal a very satisfactory position, not only with regard to this section, but also in so far as Infantile Mortality is taken as an indication of the health of the community. Maternal deaths numbered seven in 1943, one in 1944 and this year have risen to four.

Infectious diseases recorded a much decreased incidence as compared with last year and recent experience. The decrease was almost uniform throughout the various diseases, but particularly notable in the case of Measles. In this instance there was during January a continuation of the epidemic at the end of 1944.

Apart from a small peak in January and February the total deaths from all causes maintained a fairly steady level.

The switch over from war-time working in the Department was marked by several factors. Early in the year the General Hospital was released from any obligation to keep beds empty for casualties or wounded service personnel and seconded nursing staff was returned to the parent hospital. The Civil Defence organisation was finally wound up and the return of members of the staff from the Forces was begun.

A special Sub-Committee gave consideration to problems arising out of the diets and feeding arrangements of patients in the General Hospital and suggested a re-organisation revolving around the appointment of a fully qualified dietitian. Such re-organisation has not been carried out owing to the impossibility of finding the key personnel.

The cessation of Civil Defence arrangements made it necessary to obtain new and central premises as a Scabies Clinic, which premises were nearing completion by the end of the year. The release for civilian use of the insecticide known as D.D.T. marked a considerable advance in dealing with persistently infested premises.

The similar release of Penicillin added a valuable asset to the treatment facilities both in hospitals and in clinics.

Again owing to the relaxation of war-time restrictions, the Sanitary Inspector's Section was able to resume smoke observations with a view to the abatement of smoke pollution.

With the increasing availability of ice-cream the control of this commodity has been increased. Standards, both for quality and cleanliness, have been sought, so far without result.

A report of "The Government's Survey of Hospital Accommodation in the North West" was received and discussions took place both in the Health Committee and between the Health Committee and the representatives of the Rochdale Infirmary, in respect of local hospitals.

The Health Committee was also actively engaged in planning a Cancer Scheme under the Cancer Act, 1939, on the basis of a regional scheme for South East Lancashire. Unfortunately, however, it would now appear that plans under either of these schemes are not likely to reach fruition in view of the present intention of the Government to assume control of hospitals and hospital services.

The early part of the year was still overshadowed by the persistence of war operations and the second half mainly concerned with the gradual settling back to peace-time conditions. These factors, together with the knowledge that big changes were likely to take place in the national policy with regard to Health Services, made it impossible to indulge in any definite forward planning. Towards the end of the year staffing difficulties became worse rather than better than they had been during the late stages of the war, and much of the Department's time was taken up in emergency measures to overcome these difficulties. This state of affairs was particularly marked in connection with the Maternity Services, both in Institutional and Domiciliary Midwifery.

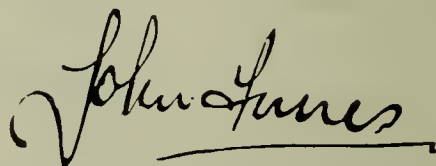
I wish to record once again my appreciation of the willing and loyal support of the staffs of the Department, both in administrative and hospital sections.

I have also to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Health Committee, on behalf of myself and the staff for your continued encouragement during the year and, on this occasion, especially for the manner in which you have always appreciated the difficulties under which the Department has had to work during the war years.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
ROCHDALE.

Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

# STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1945.

|                                                                    |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Area (in acres) ... ..                                             | 9,553    |
| Registrar-General's Estimate of Civilian Population, mid-year 1945 | 81,100   |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931) ... ..                    | 25,487   |
| Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..                   | £2,210   |
| Rateable Value ... ..                                              | £573,820 |

|                                 | Total        | M.         | F.         |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Live Births.</b> —Legitimate | 1,149        | 598        | 551        |
| Illegitimate                    | 118          | 56         | 62         |
|                                 | <u>1,267</u> | <u>654</u> | <u>613</u> |

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 15.6

**Still-births 32**—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... .. 25

|                      | Total | M.  | F.  |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| <b>Deaths</b> ... .. | 1,263 | 623 | 640 |

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 15.5

## Deaths from Maternal Causes 4.

|                         |                                                |      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------|
| Puerperal Sepsis 1      | } Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | 3.07 |
| Other Maternal Causes 3 |                                                |      |

## Death rate of Infants under one year of age.

|                                                                |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..                       | 44 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..     | 40 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... .. | 76 |

|                                 | No. of Deaths |      | Rate per 1,000 of population |      |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|                                 | 1945          | 1944 | 1945                         | 1944 |
| Measles .. ..                   | 2             | 1    | 0.02                         | 0.01 |
| Whooping Cough .. ..            | 0             | 0    | 0.00                         | 0.00 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. .. | 2             | 2    | 0.02                         | 0.02 |
| Cancer .. ..                    | 182           | 169  | 2.24                         | 2.07 |

### Poor Law Relief.

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief at the end of December, 1945, and the amount of cash payments during the year, compared with the corresponding figures for 1944 has been kindly supplied by the Director of Social Welfare :—

|                                                                                                | 1944<br>Week ending<br>30-12-44 | 1945<br>Week ending<br>29-12-45 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No. of persons in receipt of Institutional Relief (excluding cases in Mental Hospitals) ... .. | 375                             | 362                             |
| No. of Persons relieved (excluding non-resident persons and vagrants) ...                      | 755                             | 761                             |
| Amount of Out-Relief granted ... ..                                                            | £589 8s. 6d.                    | £509 3s.0d.                     |

### National Health Insurance.

The Clerk to the Insurance Committee has kindly supplied the following information as to the number of insured persons in the Borough and the cost of medicines supplied to the insured population :—

|                                                                           | Year ended Dec. 31st, |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
|                                                                           | 1944                  | 1945    |
| (1) Total number of Insured Persons in the Borough on October 1st ... ..  | 47,507                | 47,392  |
| (2) Number of Prescriptions made up for the Insured Population ... ..     | 236,208               | 225,814 |
| (3) Annual Cost of Drugs, Medicines and Appliances for Insured Population | £13,213               | £14,002 |

### Unemployment.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Rochdale Employment Exchange for information regarding the state of unemployment in Rochdale and the adjoining district of Wardle during 1945. Figures for Rochdale only are not available.

The average number of unemployed persons on the register during the year ended the 31st December, 1945, was as follows :—Men 103, Women 17, and Juveniles 12, making a total of 132 persons. It is not possible to give a comparison with immediate past years as similar information has not been available during the war period.

I am also informed that at the middle of 1945 there were approximately 36,830 insured persons (17,840 men, 14,990 women and 4,000 juveniles) but I am asked to state that this figure does not include those persons who by reason of age, type or class of employment, or part-time capacity, are exempted from the Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Area.

The area of the Borough is 9,553 acres.

### Population.

The Census Return of April, 1931, gave the population as 90,278 and in June, 1938, the Registrar General's estimate was 91,290.

The reduced figure of 81,100 is given by the Registrar General as the estimate of the civilian population mid-year 1945, as compared with the figure of 81,380 for 1944.

The present is the seventh in the series of special war-time estimates which have shown a steady reduction from the 1938 figure of 91,290. Although no doubt this series of civilian population estimates will still have to be continued, it can be assumed that the figure for 1946 will indicate an upward trend.

### Live Births.

1,267 live births (males 654, females 613) were registered, as compared with 1,320 in 1944 and an average of 1,144 for the ten years 1935-1944.

Illegitimate births numbered 118, as against 83 in 1944, and an average of 72 in the previous five years.

The Live Birth-rate was equal to 15.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 16.2 per 1,000 the previous year, and 15.5 in 1943. The year 1939 had the lowest rate ever registered for the Borough, namely 11.0 per 1,000. The average birth-rate for the ten years 1935-1944 was 13.0 per 1,000.

### Still Births.

32 were registered as compared with 49 in 1944, and an average of 45 in the previous five years.

### Deaths.

The deaths registered show an increase with 1,263 (males 623, females 640) as against 1,174 in the year 1944, and 1,324 in 1943.

The death-rate from all causes was 15.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 14.4 in 1944, and an average of 15.3 during the ten years 1935-1944.

The chief causes of death are given below in comparison with the previous year.

|                                                                     | Year 1944 | Year 1945 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Influenza ... ..                                                    | 1         | 9         |
| Tuberculosis ... ..                                                 | 49        | 38        |
| Cancer... ..                                                        | 169       | 182       |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..                                   | 147       | 153       |
| Heart Disease ... ..                                                | 325       | 372       |
| Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..                                   | 57        | 70        |
| Bronchitis ... ..                                                   | 92        | 130       |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..                                        | 31        | 42        |
| Nephritis ... ..                                                    | 39        | 46        |
| Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-mature Birth, etc. ... .. | 48        | 33        |
| TOTAL                                                               | 958       | 1,075     |

|                                                              |      |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Percentage of total deaths registered during the year ... .. | 81.6 | 85.1 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|

Table II. Appendix, shows the age and sex distribution and causes of deaths in 1945, while Table I. gives comparative mortality rates and birth-rates during the past ten years.

Increases in the number of deaths are particularly to be noted in respect of Bronchitis and the group of conditions centred round the heart and blood vessels.

### Infant Mortality.

There were 56 deaths registered under one year of age, equal to a rate of 44 per 1,000 live births registered, compared with 67 deaths and a rate of 50 last year. The increase in 1944 over 1943 was more than accounted for by deaths occurring in the group Congenital Debility, Malformation, Birth Injuries, and it is in this same group that this year a very marked decrease has taken place. This improvement is partially offset by a slight increase in the deaths from Premature Birth and a more definite increase in those from Pneumonia.

The average for the ten years 1935–1944 was 64 per 1,000 live births. The table given below shows the comparative figures for the previous ten years :—

| Year | Deaths Registered | Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births | Year | Deaths Registered | Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births |
|------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1935 | 93                | 85                              | 1940 | 96                | 89                              |
| 1936 | 76                | 69                              | 1941 | 76                | 67                              |
| 1937 | 58                | 53                              | 1942 | 90                | 71                              |
| 1938 | 69                | 63                              | 1943 | 58                | 46                              |
| 1939 | 55                | 55                              | 1944 | 67                | 50                              |

The above Table demonstrates that the improvement in the Infantile Mortality rate has been maintained in a very satisfactory manner in spite of war-time conditions. The initial and tremendous upheaval of all aspects of national life is reflected in the setback in this improvement in 1940. A similar upheaval can be recorded in almost every aspect of national life. It is worthy of note, as well as ground for satisfaction, that the health of the nation, at its most sensitive point, is practically the first aspect to return to normal and to resume pre-war trends. This feeling of satisfaction need not be confined to those interested in health problems alone, since it is obvious that the successful maintenance of the nation's activities can only be based upon a healthy population.

As one indication of the different point from which we start after this war, it may be noted that the Infantile Mortality rate in Rochdale in 1919 was 126 per 1,000 births.

### Comparative Mortality and Birth-rates.

|                                                              | Death-rate<br>All Causes per<br>1,000 of<br>population | Live Birth-rate<br>per 1,000<br>of<br>population | Infant<br>Mortality<br>per 1,000<br>live births |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ROCHDALE ...</b> ...                                      | 15.5                                                   | 15.6                                             | 44                                              |
| 126 County Boroughs<br>and Great Towns ...                   | 13.5                                                   | 19.1                                             | 54                                              |
| 148 Smaller Towns<br>(Population 25,000<br>to 50,000) ... .. | 12.3                                                   | 19.2                                             | 43                                              |
| <b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>                                     | 11.4                                                   | 16.1                                             | 46                                              |

These provisional figures are corrected only for transfers and institutions and make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

### Zymotic Diseases.

The principal zymotic diseases (excluding influenza) caused 8 deaths, compared with 6 last year.

|                                         | Year 1944 | Year 1945 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Diphtheria ... ..                       | 2         | 2         |
| Measles ... ..                          | 1         | 2         |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... .. | 2         | 2         |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..             | 1         | 2         |
| <b>TOTAL ... ..</b>                     | <b>6</b>  | <b>8</b>  |

### Respiratory Diseases.

This group of diseases caused 188 deaths, as compared with 132 in 1944. Pneumonia caused 42 deaths (31), Bronchitis 130 deaths (92) and other respiratory affections 16 deaths (9).

This increase is due to the abnormally low figure of 92 Bronchitis deaths in 1944. The average number of deaths from this disease in the 5 years 1940-1944 was 150.

### Cancer.

The arrangement with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for the admission and treatment of selected cases of cancer has been continued during the year.

Deaths classified to this cause and shown in age groups below numbered 182 (males 93, females 89), as against 169 the previous year :—

|           |     | Total<br>Deaths | under<br>15 yrs. | 15—45<br>yrs. | 45—65<br>yrs. | 65 yrs.<br>and over |
|-----------|-----|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Year 1945 | ... | 182             | 1                | 13            | 76            | 92                  |
| Year 1944 | ... | 169             | —                | 21            | 71            | 77                  |

The death-rate was 2.24 per 1,000 as against 2.07 per 1,000 of the estimated population for the previous year.

No special investigations have been undertaken during the year in connection with the incidence or causation of this disease.

## General Provision of Health Services.

### Nursing in the Home.

Arrangements continued throughout the year with the District Nursing Association, as described in the last two reports.

The Association staff paid a total of 1,784 visits to 154 Public Health cases during the year ; the cases being mainly children under five years of age, patients suffering from Pneumonia, from Tuberculosis and from conditions arising out of Pregnancy and Child Birth (170 visits to 93 patients). This work made a valuable and much appreciated contribution to the operation of the Public Health Sections concerned.

### Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

As previously outlined the town is served by the Domiciliary Medical Services Scheme on the Panel system, except for the Wardleworth and Small-bridge Wards, where a permanent District Medical Officer still holds office. The number covered by the Panel Scheme on the 31st December, 1945, was 1,356.

### **Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.**

These cases are accommodated at the Birch Hill Institution, where 150 beds are provided for this type of case.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

From November, 1944, the Public Health Committee have controlled the operation of the Council's Ambulance Service. A day and night service is provided to deal with accident calls and removals to Corporation and other Hospitals. At the present time a fleet of 5 vehicles is engaged with a personnel establishment of 1 Ambulance Officer, 19 Drivers and Attendants and 3 Telephonists.

Agreements have been entered into with the Councils of 3 adjacent districts to provide ambulance facilities in their areas.

During the year 4,368 ambulance journeys involving a running mileage of 29,388 miles, were run, being 460 journeys on account of accidents in the streets, works, etc., and 3,908 other journeys. Of the total journeys shown 3,697 were in respect of Borough patients and 671 for Out-Borough patients.

By arrangement with the Rochdale Transport Department a car has been maintained at the Ambulance Depot for the Municipal Midwifery Service since March, 1945. During 1945 a total of 1,154 journeys (5,987 miles) was made. This vehicle is driven by the Ambulance personnel.

In connection with the Municipal Car Hire Service operated by the Rochdale Transport Department, an arrangement had been made for a Night Car Service to convey relatives of patients called in emergency to Birch Hill Hospital or the Rochdale Infirmary at times when normal transport facilities are not available. The number of persons conveyed during 1945 was 70.

### **Clinic and Treatment Centres.**

Arrangements remain as in 1944.

There are five Centres in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare maintained by the Local Authority, with fourteen sessions each week ; also one centre each in connection with (a) Venereal Diseases, (b) Tuberculosis, and (c) School Medical Inspection.

The work in connection with the Corporation clinics is set out in detail in the respective sections of this report.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

#### **(a) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.**

The new Municipal Laboratory, in the grounds of Birch Hill Hospital, opened in 1943, has been in full working during the year. It is now able to undertake all Bacteriological and Bio-chemical work for this and other Corporation Departments and is available for outside bodies when required. In addition it serves as the Depot for the Local Blood Transfusion Service and for Penicillin Therapy.

The following table shows the work done by the Laboratory. The unit value shown in respect of the Laboratory is primarily designed for costing purposes, but is included here to give some idea of the relative amount of time and material spent in the different classes of specimens :—

| Sent By                                                              | Specimens |      | Unit Value |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|------------|-------|
|                                                                      | 1944      | 1945 | 1944       | 1945  |
| Public Health Office, including Swabs etc. from Practitioners ... .. | 772       | 724  | 3556       | 3290  |
| Maternity and Child Welfare ... ..                                   | 943       | 1082 | 1211       | 1197  |
| Tuberculosis Dispensary ... ..                                       | 110       | 208  | 253        | 436   |
| School Medical Service ... ..                                        | 35        | 17   | 124        | 71    |
| Marland Hospital ... ..                                              | 1868      | 1015 | 4533       | 2327  |
| Springfield Sanatorium ... ..                                        | 273       | 298  | 586        | 667   |
| Birch Hill Hospital ... ..                                           | 4640      | 4221 | 22097      | 20224 |
| Private ... ..                                                       | 221       | 264  | 499        | 851   |
| Others ... ..                                                        | 64        | 189  | 544        | 1350  |
| TOTAL ... ..                                                         | 8926      | 8018 | 33403      | 30413 |

The bacteriological examination of water and of milk is included in the work of the above laboratory, while chemical analysis of water is carried out by the Public Analyst :—

|                                                        |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Milk—for Tubercle Bacilli (Animal Inoculation) ... ..  | 118 samples. |
| for Bacterial Count, B. Coli and Reductase Test ... .. | 215 „        |
| Water—for Bacterial Count ... ..                       | 94 „         |

#### (b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In addition to the examinations included in the work of the above Laboratory 762 specimens from persons suspected of suffering from venereal diseases were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and 657 specimens were examined by the Medical Officers of the treatment Centre.

#### (c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Borough Analyst has examined 141 samples under the Food and Drugs Acts, as against 202 last year.

#### Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There is one dwelling-house registered as a Maternity Home and two as Nursing Homes for medical and surgical cases :—

59 Boundary Street—two patients—Maternity.

183 Drake Street—eight patients—Medical and Surgical.

The Law Nursing Home, Manchester Road—34 patients—Medical.

The Nursing Homes were visited during the year by the Medical Officer and were reported upon as satisfactory.

In a compact area such as Rochdale, there is no possibility of an un-registered Nursing Home being in existence without the knowledge of the Public Health Department.

## Hospitals.

The public and voluntary hospital services in the district provide 1,052 beds for sick, as shown below :—

### PUBLIC HOSPITALS—

|                                                                |        |     |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|------|
| Birch Hill Hospital—General Medical and Surgical               | ...    | 417 | beds |
| do. Maternity                                                  | ... .. | 58  | „    |
| Birch Hill Institution—Epilepsy, Mentally Infirm, etc....      |        | 150 | „    |
| Marland Hospital—Infectious Diseases                           | ... .. | 120 | „    |
| Springfield Sanatorium—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (females)...     | ... .. | 36  | „    |
| Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (males) | ... .. | 55  | „    |

### VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS—

|                                               |        |     |   |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-----|---|
| Rochdale Infirmary—General (chiefly surgical) | ... .. | 110 | „ |
| The Memorial Home—Orthopaedic                 | ... .. | 50  | „ |

In addition to this number, arrangements have been continued during the year to send selected cases of tuberculosis to various sanatoria, e.g. The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Three beds are also retained at the Hyde Smallpox Hospital for cases of smallpox which may occur within the Borough.

## The General Hospital, Birch Hill.

This hospital has accommodation for 475 patients, including 417 beds for general medical and surgical and 58 for maternity cases, and serves the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining County districts with a total estimated population of approximately 120,000.

During the year 3,745 patients were admitted to the hospital, excluding the 885 infants born in the hospital, in comparison with 3,977 admissions and 1,003 live births in 1944.

The following statistical summary provides an indication of the volume of work done at Birch Hill Hospital.

|                                                                                                    | Year 1944 |     | Year 1945 |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-----------|--|
| Total number of admissions (including infants born in hospital) ... ..                             | 4980      | ... | 4630      |  |
| Number of women confined in hospital ... ..                                                        | 1029      | ... | 904       |  |
| Number of live births ... ..                                                                       | 1003      | ... | 885       |  |
| Number of still-births ... ..                                                                      | 42        | ... | 35        |  |
| Number of deaths amongst the newly-born (i.e. under 4 weeks of age) ... ..                         | 37        | ... | 29        |  |
| Total number of deaths amongst children under one year ... ..                                      | 56        | ... | 57        |  |
| Number of maternal deaths among women confined in hospital ... ..                                  | 4         | ... | 7         |  |
| Total number of deaths ... ..                                                                      | 483       | ... | 445       |  |
| Total number of discharges (including infants born in hospital) ... ..                             | 4481      | ... | 4137      |  |
| Duration of stay of patients—                                                                      |           |     |           |  |
| (a) Four weeks or less ... ..                                                                      | 3822      | ... | 3352      |  |
| (b) Exceeding four weeks but under thirteen weeks ... ..                                           | 859       | ... | 918       |  |
| (c) Exceeding thirteen weeks ... ..                                                                | 283       | ... | 312       |  |
| Number of beds occupied, average during the year... (highest 402 on 8/12/45, lowest 309 on 1/1/45) | 344       | ... | 359       |  |
| Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations) ...           | 1355      | ... | 1461      |  |
| Number of abdominal sections ... ..                                                                | 486       | ... | 526       |  |
| Number of pathological and microscopical examinations ... ..                                       | 4640      | ... | 4221      |  |

Throughout the year in varying degree the hospital suffered from most of the difficulties besetting hospitals in general. These included staffing shortages either in number or in quality, or in both ; non-availability of items of equipment ; dietary difficulties and shortage of accommodation.

Staffing difficulties affected the nurses in the Maternity Home, the Kitchen Staff and Domestic Workers in general. Dietary difficulties revolved round the fact that owing to restrictions many of the items essential to produce a varied diet cannot be obtained. This, taken in conjunction with the impossibility of obtaining highly qualified Kitchen Staff, rendered the proper and attractive feeding of patients an extremely difficult problem and one not always capable of solution.

This hospital, like many others, had realised for years that it was short of accommodation in several respects. There does not appear to be any possibility of this being remedied in the near future and the combination of staff shortages and imperfect accommodation creates many serious problems.

As stated in last year's Report the Maternity Section was especially severely hit in this way and controlled booking had again to be continued. It was, however, only possible to control the booking to the capacity of the hospital and the safety of the patient, not to the strict capacity of the Nursing Staff. The Local Authority is responsible for midwifery both in the hospital and outside, and shortages of domiciliary midwives made it impossible for the hospital to find a safety valve in District Midwifery or vice versa. That many expectant mothers suffered inconvenience from these arrangements is as inevitable as it is regretted. That, in spite of the fact that the Maternity Home and its staff were working beyond capacity, no accidents occurred is a matter for thankfulness rather than congratulation.

The hospital continued also to be understaffed in respect of those responsible for the training of nurses, but in spite of this difficulty good training results were achieved and this is a matter of congratulation both to the Teaching Staff and to the pupils.

### **Dental Work.**

I am indebted to Mr. H. Senior Ashworth, Dental Surgeon at the General Hospital, for the following statement of dental work carried out at the hospital and the adjoining Public Assistance Institution during the year :—

|                                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Visits to Birch Hill Hospital ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55  |
| Inspections ...                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Extractions ...                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 179 |
| Scalings ...                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |

Two General Anæsthetics, other than Nitrous Oxide, have been administered by the Medical Officers for the extraction of teeth. Dentures have been repaired for patients as required.

### **Blood Transfusion Service.**

No public campaigns were held during the year. The Department still maintains its liaison with the Regional Transfusion Service, but fewer demands were made for sessions in connection with the maintenance of the Blood Bank. The needs of local hospitals are provided for by regular small sessions conducted by the Pathologist.

### **Joint Consultative Committee.**

The Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the Health Committee and of the Rochdale Infirmary, appointed for the purpose of co-ordinating the hospital services, have continued their regular meetings, and many matters of mutual interest affecting general hospital administration have been discussed.

### **Hospital Recommends.**

The Corporation are able to supply a limited number of "Recommends" for admission to the following institutions :—

- Manchester Royal Eye Hospital ;
- Manchester Royal Infirmary ;
- Rochdale Infirmary ;
- Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton.

Application for these "Recommendations" should be made to the Public Health Offices and should be accompanied by a medical certificate, or written request from the hospital concerned.

### **Marland Hospital and Springfield Sanatorium.**

The work at these institutions is referred to in a later part of this report.

## **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

### **Notification of Births—Public Health Act, 1936.**

There were 1,273 births notified as belonging to Rochdale—1,267 by midwives, and 6 by doctors. These figures include 705 births occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home and classified to Rochdale.

### **Health Visitors.**

The staff of Health Visitors was reduced from a normal six to five for most of the year. These five Health Visitors have made a total of 11,295 visits mainly to children under five, 9,151 visits, and to expectant mothers, 106 visits. The Health Visitors are also in regular attendance at the Welfare Centres, Nursery Schools and the War-time Nursery.

### **Infant Welfare Centres.**

The five centres in different parts of the town have continued with their nine weekly sessions.

The total attendances of children of all ages at all Clinics were 22,705 as compared with 28,963 in 1944. It is felt that in this section the main responsibility for decreased attendances must rest upon the fact that the Department was not able to make satisfactory arrangements for the staffing of these centres during the year. Staffing vacancies occurred at the beginning of the year and it was impossible to replace these on a properly established basis. More satisfactory arrangements, however, were made at the end of the year and these should begin to show returns in 1946.

Although it appears clear that Infant Welfare will remain the responsibility of the Local Authority of a County Borough, the exact circumstances are not yet known and, therefore, precise planning is still a matter for future consideration.

Again, although it is fully realised, as mentioned in last year's Report, that the premises used for centres are far from satisfactory and will require to be replaced, building of this type of premises will have to give way for a considerable period to the drive for re-housing of the population. Although to those people concerned with Infant Welfare Centres the postponement of improvement of these may be a matter for regret, it must not be forgotten that the re-housing of the population on up-to-date standards is in itself a most valuable piece of Infant Welfare work.

| Centre                                  | New Cases admitted during 1945 | Total Attendances of Children |              |              | Average Attendance per Clinic Session | No. of Medical examinations by M.O. |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                         |                                | under 1 yr.                   | 1—2 yrs.     | 2—5 yrs      |                                       |                                     |
| (a) Baillie Street<br>* (Wardleworth)   | 130                            | 2,093                         | 650          | 766          | †<br>36 (43)                          | 986                                 |
| (b)*St. Luke's ...                      | 220                            | 3,141                         | 1,179        | 633          | 52 (65)                               | 909                                 |
| (c)*St. Clement's ...                   | 194                            | 2,753                         | 1,346        | 1,046        | 53 (71)                               | 1,136                               |
| (d) Baillie Street<br>* (Castleton) ... | 176                            | 2,550                         | 839          | 574          | 42 (48)                               | 887                                 |
| (e) Castleton ...                       | 101                            | 1,954                         | 953          | 1,043        | 41 (54)                               | 621                                 |
| (f) Norden ...                          | 51                             | 609                           | 312          | 264          | 24 (31)                               | 277                                 |
| <b>Totals ...</b>                       | <b>872</b>                     | <b>13,100</b>                 | <b>5,279</b> | <b>4,326</b> | —                                     | <b>4,816</b>                        |
| <b>Corresponding Figures 1944 ...</b>   | <b>968</b>                     | <b>16,715</b>                 | <b>6,407</b> | <b>5,841</b> | —                                     | <b>6,654</b>                        |

\* Two Clinic Sessions per week. † Figures in brackets are for 1944.

The number of children who attended for the first time and who at the date of their first visit were under one year of age was 805 or 64 per cent of the notified live births, as against the 63 per cent. in 1944.

Medical records of children attending these clinics are subsequently transferred to the School Medical Services Clinic.

The members of the Ladies' Executive Committee and co-opted voluntary helpers have continued to give their time and assistance at the various clinics and in other ways, for which service the Health Committee have recorded their appreciation and thanks.

### National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

We are indebted to the local branch of this society and to their Inspector for their ready and willing co-operation with this department in dealing with cases of neglect, uncleanness and similar conditions coming within the purview of the Medical Officer and Health Visitors throughout the year.

### Provision of Milk and Food Preparations.

The scheme for the distribution of milk and food preparations free to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers, and to children under five years of age was very materially altered by the National Milk Scheme which came into operation in July, 1940. This scheme was later extended to include the distribution of dried milk and of vitamin preparations. The closest contact is maintained between the Maternity and Child Welfare Department and the Milk Office to avoid overlapping and to assist parents and children in every way. The Local Authority's Scheme is now largely confined to special cases.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Continued pressure was used to further this Scheme by all forms of propaganda and specially by personal approach. The time has come when Immunisation has proved its own case and no persuasion should be necessary beyond simple reminders to the forgetful. In addition to Birthday Cards, such direct approach can be and is made through the Clinics, Schools, Nursery Schools and Hospitals. In 1944, 668 children under five received a course of Immunisation and in 1945 the number immunised in this group was 763.

Further mention is made of the scheme in the sections dealing with Infectious Diseases and School Medical Services.

### Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

There are now six clinic sessions each week—four ante-natal clinics at Baillie Street Council School and one at Birch Hill Maternity Home, while one post-natal clinic is held at Baillie Street School.

The number of women attending these clinics is set out in the following summary.

|                                                        |             | Rochdale<br>Borough |       | County<br>Districts |      | Total |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|------|-------|-------|
|                                                        |             | 1944                | 1945  | 1944                | 1945 | 1944  | 1945  |
| <b>(1) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS</b>                          |             |                     |       |                     |      |       |       |
| (a) No. of Expectant Mothers attending (New Cases) ... | Baillie St. | 868                 | 966   | 109                 | 130  | 977   | 1,096 |
|                                                        | Birch Hill  | —                   | —     | 104                 | 94   | 104   | 94    |
| (b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...         | Baillie St. | 4,685               | 4,695 | 596                 | 579  | 5,281 | 5,274 |
|                                                        | Birch Hill  | —                   | —     | 570                 | 518  | 570   | 518   |
| (c) Average attendances per clinic session ...         | Baillie St. | 23.0                | 22.3  | 3.0                 | 2.8  | 26    | 25    |
|                                                        | Birch Hill  | —                   | —     | 11.0                | 10.1 | 11    | 10.1  |
| <b>(2) POST-NATAL CLINIC</b>                           |             |                     |       |                     |      |       |       |
| (a) No. of Mothers attending (New Cases) ...           | Baillie St. | 236                 | 230   | 40                  | 35   | 276   | 265   |
| (b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...         | Baillie St. | 384                 | 334   | 59                  | 39   | 443   | 373   |
| (c) Average attendance per clinic session ...          | Baillie St. | 8.0                 | 7.4   | 1.2                 | 0.9  | 9.2   | 8.3   |

The 966 Rochdale patients who attended for the first time at the Ante-natal Clinics during the year represent 75 per cent. of the total notified live-births and still-births in this Borough as compared with 60 per cent. in the previous year. In following up these patients the Health Visitors paid 106 home visits.

### **X-Ray Facilities.**

The X-ray facilities at Birch Hill Hospital are available when the Medical Officer desires further information as regards any patient attending the Ante-Natal Clinic.

### **Consultant Services.**

Dr. K. A. Evans continued to act as Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to the Maternity Services under this Authority as a Part-time Officer.

### **Emergency Maternity Unit.**

This unit is available at short notice night and day for service within the Borough or adjoining County Districts (Tel. No. 8294, Birch Hill Hospital). This service was not called upon during the year.

### **Orthopaedic Clinic.**

Children attending the Child Welfare Clinic and requiring expert opinion or treatment are referred to the Smith Street Clinic carried on by the Crippled Children's Union. Dr. Bateman's services in this connection are always readily available and his help is gratefully acknowledged.

### **Maternity Outfits.**

No loans of Maternity Outfits for confinement at home were made during the year. Sterilised accouchement outfits may be obtained at the Child Welfare Centres at cost price or free in necessitous cases.

### **Dental Services.**

The joint arrangement with the School Dental Services has been continued. Dental treatment in the nature of extractions and small fillings necessary for clearing septic conditions was given to 34 mothers and 10 children. In addition 1 necessitous and expectant mother was supplied with dentures through a dentist of her own choice.

### **Medical Assistance.**

Midwives practising on the District requested the services of a medical practitioner in 205 maternity cases and in 34 cases of newly born children. The corresponding figures last year were 241 and 42 respectively.

In 22 cases the medical fee was paid in whole or part by the Local Authority amounting in the aggregate to £32 as against £101 the previous year.

### **Midwifery Fees.**

The Local Authority pay the midwifery fee in cases where the family circumstances, including the question of Maternity Benefits, merit this. During the year the fee was paid or allowed in whole or part in 23 cases.



The following figures show the maternal mortality in other towns as compared with Rochdale.

| AREA                                               | MATERNAL MORTALITY<br>per 1,000 Live and Still Births |        |                               |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
|                                                    | 1945                                                  | 1944   | Average<br>5 years<br>1939-43 |
| ROCHDALE ... ..                                    | 3.07                                                  | 0.73   | 3.55                          |
| Average 12 neighbouring<br>manufacturing towns ... | 2.34                                                  | * 2.57 | 3.43                          |
| Administrative County of<br>Lancaster ... ..       | 2.32                                                  | 2.18   | 3.16                          |
| England and Wales ...                              | 1.79                                                  | 1.93   | 2.30                          |

\* Average 11 manufacturing towns.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

4 cases reported as against 2 cases in 1944 and 2 in 1943. In all cases there was no impairment of vision.

### Child Life Protection.

On the 31st December, 1945, there were 19 persons registered as receiving children for reward. The number of children concerned was 21.

## WAR-TIME NURSERY, CASTLETON.

### War-time Nursery, Castleton.

The number on the register was 50 in January, 1945 and 66 in December, 1945, 17 being under two years. The average attendance for the whole year was 33 over two years and 14 under two years. As compared with the previous year the average attendance at the Nursery show an increase though the figures for 1945 were affected by reduced attendances in January and February due to the carry-over of the Measles epidemic from the end of the previous year.

The children improved noticeably with the rest, good food, fresh air and play hours; the average gain in weight for twelve months being :—6 months to 1 year—5 lbs. ; 1 year to 2 years—7 lbs. ; 2 years to 3 years—6 lbs. ; 3 years to 4 years—4 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. ; 4 years to 5 years—5 lbs.

The cases referred for special treatment were :—

|                                 |     |     |     |     |   |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Eye Specialist                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Surgeon                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| U.V.R. Therapy                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |

The W.V.S. have, as formerly, kindly conveyed the children of the working mothers to the Clinics.

The age of the youngest child in the Nursery is 6 months, whereas in 1944 it was 8 months, 3 children having been in the Nursery since the opening in October, 1942.

The Medical Officer visits each week in order to examine new entrants and any special cases. In addition, a medical inspection is carried out quarterly at which all routine cases are re-examined.

The Matron of the War-time Nursery makes a point of discussing with each mother once a week the progress of her child, in addition to day-to-day talks. The Health Visitor for the district attends once per week and is able to act as an additional link between the school and the homes of the children.

During the year one Nursery Student was successful in obtaining the Nursery Nurses' Diploma.

A gift of sweets for the children was received per the W.V.S. Organisation from the people of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a gift of Dried Milk Chocolate Powder from the Canadian Government. These were appreciated. During the year the Matron and Staff organised a very successful "Bring and Buy" Sale, the proceeds of which were devoted to the purchase of Christmas toys for the children. Social activities have been organised in the Nursery premises for the mothers of the nursery children.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Chief Officials of the various Departments of the Corporation for information included in this section of the Report.

### Water Supply.

- (i) The water supply of each of the several parts of the area has been satisfactory (a) in quality, (b) in quantity.
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the treated water have been made ; 100 samples having been examined during the year.

- (iii) Whilst the raw water from each of the reservoirs would be liable to have plumbo-solvent action, during the year, no dissolved lead has been found in any of them. The pH value of the water as it goes into supply is raised by the addition of lime water and is, no doubt, the explanation why on no occasion has lead been found in solution. For the past few years all the waters have been chlorinated. During the year 79 samples have been submitted for chemical analysis and have been found satisfactory.
- (iv) No special form of contamination has had to be dealt with during the past year, but practically all inhabited buildings have been removed from the gathering grounds. Such few occupied premises as still remain will, no doubt, be acquired in the reasonably near future.
- (v) No dwellinghouses, nor any part of the population, are normally supplied by means of standpipes. The number of privately-owned sources of water supply is not large.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works Extensions are completed and the whole plant is in operation. The raw sewage is screened after grit removal and is then passed through a Primary Sedimentation Tank which is cleaned mechanically. After secondary sedimentation one half of the sewage passes to the new Activated Sludge Plant and the other half is pumped on to the bacteria beds. The Activated Sludge Plant has been constructed on the Kessener system and is producing a good effluent.

After two years in operation, the new Activated Sludge Plant has given good results in purification, and there is an ample reserve of capacity. Certain adjustments are now being made to the machinery in the light of experience.

One main Surface Water Overflow Chamber has been constructed on the outfall sewer from the Sudden Valley Drainage Area, and four other Surface Water Overflows in that area have been dispensed with. The new Kirkholt Estate has considerably extended this area.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The Lancashire Rivers Board are responsible for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams in this area and any cases which come to the notice of the Borough Surveyor are reported to this Board for their attention.

### **Public Cleansing.**

There were no material changes in the refuse collection, disposal or street cleansing services during the year.

Salvage continued to be an important part of the work of the Cleansing Department. The biggest event was a third Book Drive in which 17,505 books were secured as reading matter for the Forces ; books for salvage, for blitzed libraries and for children brought the total to 129,326.

The extent of the year's activities compared with 1944 is indicated in the following table of tonnages of the principal salvage groups sold by the Cleansing Department :—

|                                                          | 1945         | 1944         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                          | Tons         | Tons         |
| Waste paper and books ... ..                             | 441          | 392          |
| Scrap metals ... ..                                      | 539          | 469          |
| Rags, sacking, carpets, etc. ... ..                      | 69           | 62           |
| *Kitchen waste processed for pig and poultry food ... .. | 1,811        | 2,122        |
| Fertiliser... ..                                         | 55           | 67           |
| *Bones ... ..                                            | 37           | 51           |
| Bottles and jars ... ..                                  | 33           | 35           |
| Broken glass ... ..                                      | 4            | 9            |
| Fuel cinder ... ..                                       | 243          | 242          |
|                                                          | <u>3,232</u> | <u>3,449</u> |

\* Including supplies received from neighbouring districts.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

803 Preliminary or Informal Notices for the abatement of nuisances and for the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below. The statement also includes works carried out at factories and food storage premises, etc., following the service of preliminary notices but excludes work done under the Housing Acts.

| NATURE OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH                                                                                                                                                            | Nos. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>HOUSES—</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |      |
| Verminous dwellings disinfested ... ..                                                                                                                                                    | 19   |
| Dirty Houses limewashed and cleansed ... ..                                                                                                                                               | 37   |
| Repairs to roofs, floors, walls, eavestroughing, rainwater pipes, chimneys, and general repairs to brickwork or stonework (including dampness) and repair or renewal of house fittings... | 1065 |
| <b>YARDS, PASSAGES, ETC.—</b>                                                                                                                                                             |      |
| Repairs to surfaces, gates, walls, etc. ... ..                                                                                                                                            | 13   |
| Offensive accumulations and stagnant water removed ... ..                                                                                                                                 | 23   |
| <b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES—</b>                                                                                                                                                             |      |
| Water-closet buildings repaired ... ..                                                                                                                                                    | 74   |
| Water-closet fittings repaired ... ..                                                                                                                                                     | 136  |
| <b>DRAINS—</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |      |
| Main or branch drains repaired or cleansed ... ..                                                                                                                                         | 95   |
| <b>GENERAL—</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |      |
| Want of limewashing or cleansing of premises used for the preparation or storage of food ... ..                                                                                           | 31   |
| Absence of, or unsatisfactory condition of, sanitary accommodation at factories or workshops ... ..                                                                                       | 7    |
| Miscellaneous nuisances remedied ... ..                                                                                                                                                   | 24   |

Probably one of the most exacting duties falling upon this Department during recent years has been the investigation of applications for re-housing with a view to the presentation of priority cases to the Housing Committee.

During 1945, 249 houses have been inspected and reported upon in this connection. After inspection and report each case is considered individually by the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector in accordance with certain broad principles before being submitted to the Housing Committee for final decision.

In the present stage of the housing problem it is obvious that a large number of cases, which would normally be regarded as deserving cases, have to be excluded from the priority lists.

### **Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.**

The extension of work under this Act made necessary by the issue of the Infestation Order, 1943, required increased staff. The staff consists of three persons, two of whom hold temporary appointments.

124 dwelling houses and 255 business premises were treated during the year. This required 2,858 visits and the estimated kill was at least 967 rats.

### **Shop Acts, 1912 and 1934.**

No notices under these Acts were issued during 1945.

### **Offensive Trades.**

The number of premises at which these trades are carried on in the Borough is as follows :—

|                              |     |     |     |     |   |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Tripe boiling ...            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Fellmongering                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Knackers yard (bone boiling) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Rag and Bone Dealers         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

These premises have been visited regularly during the year.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

The approximate accommodation in the Borough at the end of December, 1945, was as follows :—

|                             |     |     |        |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Fresh-water carriage system | ... | ... | 26,152 |
| Pail Closets ...            | ... | ... | 1,569  |
| Waste-water Closets         | ... | ... | 1,606  |
| Privy Middens               | ... | ... | 33     |

The tables showing the progress of conversion of pail closets have been omitted.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

### **Retail Bakehouses.**

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 167. These have been regularly inspected, and cleansing and limewashing have been carried out after intimation by the Inspectors in 31 cases.

A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained and it has not been found necessary to issue any abatement notices in this respect.

### **Workshops.**

343 inspections of workshops have been carried out during the year.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

49 smoke observations of one half-hour each were taken during the year and 4 contraventions of the Act were reported to the Committee.

In 3 cases the appropriate notice was served on the firms concerned and in the remaining case the Committee ordered that further observations were to be taken.

Two firms were asked to reduce the emission of moderately dense smoke ; this is not an offence but it is considered that excessive emission of moderately dense smoke is as harmful as the emission for shorter periods of dense smoke.

As envisaged in last year's Report it has been possible to carry out a more detailed supervision of atmospheric pollution by smoke than during the war period. At the same time it must be remembered that a considerable proportion of cotton mills in the district closed during the war period have not yet been able or allowed to re-open.

The Inspectors found in the course of their duties in this respect a general willingness on the part of firms to co-operate in the reduction of smoke nuisance. On every occasion, however, in which difficulties were experienced, these difficulties were referred to the unsatisfactory quality of the coal supplied, over which the firms concerned at the present time have no control.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power have been kept informed of all unsatisfactory observations taken and their Engineers have co-operated with firms in the town in attempting to overcome these difficulties. Certain firms have also in mind improvement in coal burning plant, but this like the quality of the coal must await a more satisfactory stage in the production of raw materials.

It must also be noted that although alternative forms of power producing plant have been considered these are not in all cases suitable for introduction into cotton mills.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are eight of these premises now registered ; the licence of one was given up during the year, partly as a result of action by the Department.

The accommodation provided now comprises 40 rooms containing 467 beds.

Regular visits of inspection have been made during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There were 103 farms on the register at the end of 1945. These were visited regularly by the Dairies Inspector.

### **Milkshops.**

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 226, while the number retailing unbottled milk is 4. With the exception of two, these are registered dairies. All the premises have been inspected regularly during the year.

### **Inspection of Premises used for the Preparation of and Sale of Food-stuffs.**

During the year 3,609 visits have been made to this type of premises.

### **Rochdale Corporation Act, 1937.**

This Act deals with the registration of premises for the preparation and sale of various foodstuffs. No premises were registered under the provisions of the Act during the year.

### **Meat and Food Supply.**

There has been regular inspection of meat and food offered for sale, 18,671 carcasses were examined and over 104 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human food.

## **MILK AND DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1915.**

## **MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.**

### **Tuberculous Milk.**

During the year 112 samples of milk have been taken in the Rochdale streets for the purpose of detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. These samples represented the milk of about 1,929 cows and were taken in batches monthly. Of the samples, 67 were from Rochdale Borough farmers and 45 from County farmers delivering milk in the Borough. The number found to be tubercular was :—

|                           |     |   |
|---------------------------|-----|---|
| From Rochdale farmers ... | ... | 6 |
| From County farmers ...   | ... | 3 |

In connection with the positive samples the necessary steps in respect of the infected animals were taken by the Ministry of Agriculture under the revised arrangements which came into force on the 1st April, 1938.

### FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

141 samples of Food and Drugs were submitted for analysis as compared with 202 during the previous year.

#### Borough Analyst's Annual Report.

I am indebted to the Borough Analyst for the following Report :—

The total number of samples submitted was 141, i.e., practically 1.5 per thousand of population, and included 128 milks, 4 condiments and two each of ham, etc., paste, essences and farinaceous foods, and one each of baking powder, tomato soup and liquid coffee and chicory.

Adulteration was confined to milk, apart from which, the only sample of baking powder examined was found deficient in available carbon dioxide to the extent of 74.8% when referred to the requirements laid down in the Ministry of Food, S.R. & O. 1944, No. 46, which prescribes a minimum of 8% available carbon dioxide ; the sample yielded only 2.01% thereof.

The milks reported against—14 in all, equal to 10.9% of all samples analysed—fall into four classes, viz. :—

- (a) Those quite definitely adulterated with added water, and of which seven contained 2.8, 4.7, 7.1, 10.3, 20.0, 20.0 (an informal and deplorably bad sample, which was further deficient in fat to the extent of 66.0%) and at least 40%, respectively.
- (b) Two found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 5.0 and 20.0% respectively—whether naturally so, or owing to some failure in mixing (plunging) was not known.
- (c) Three, whilst, no doubt, legally genuine, failed to comply with the minimum non-fatty solids content of genuine milk, as fixed by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939 (viz. 8.5%), in that they were deficient to the extent of 1.7, 2.3 and 3.5% respectively, and
- (d) Two—whilst evidence of any dilution with extraneous water was negatived, (the freezing point of each sample being the critical test of genuineness)—were both deficient in non-fatty solids (2.7 and 3.0% respectively) and in fat (28.6 and 25.0% respectively).

The second of the latter samples was taken “on appeal to the cows” in consequence of the results of the first sample.

Now as to categories (c) and (d) at least, no further steps, under the Act could be taken. However abnormal such samples are in composition—and there is a sensible proportion of milk, throughout the country, secreted by the cow, more or less **naturally** deficient in non-fatty solids, owing to a fall in lactose content—there is nothing to be done about it, vis-a-vis the Food and Drugs Act. Nevertheless, the maintenance of dietetic value in so staple a food is clamant as never before, and there is a sound case for readjustment by payment on quality, in which event, the majority of milk vendors, as the Rochdale records show, would certainly not be prejudiced thereby. The system of certifying the **composition** of every sample submitted has been maintained, and the Health Department is able to judge the situation accordingly. A satisfactory feature throughout the year was revealed in the complete absence of preservative agents and colouring matter in samples taken by the Inspectors.

The miscellaneous samples included four condiments (vinegar, mixed spice, relish and piccalilli), which were of the usual commercial quality of these pre-packed goods from reputable stores, and were free from metallic contamination. Both essences were of the synthetic type and of a “strength” calculated to fulfill the purpose for which they are employed, and the two pastes (ham and kipper) and soup conformed to Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

The liquid coffee and chicory met official requirements as to caffeine content (S.O.O. 1945, No. 389) and Public Health Regulations, in that the amount of Benzoic Acid present was only two-fifths the maximum permitted.

Before leaving this phase of public health service, it is expedient to direct attention to the ever-increasing demands now made upon the Public Analyst by the great advances of the last few years in the science of nutrition, and by enactments and orders controlling the composition of foods. The mere detection of gross fraudulent practices in the past, has given place to a refined technique, hitherto not visualised. Many examples could be given arising out of the activities of the Ministry of Food, and one of the most recent which concerns the Labelling of Food, imposes the duty, inter alia, of detection and estimation of “trace” elements.

### Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

The results of analysis of a sample of National Cattle Food (No. 1 Dairy Ration) are set aside the statements declared in the Statutory Statements, as follows :—

|                       |     |     |     |     |     | Statutory<br>Statement | Found in<br>sample |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|--------------------|
|                       |     |     |     |     |     | %                      | %                  |
| Oil                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5.0                    | 5.4                |
| Fibre                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9.5                    | 8.0                |
| Albuminoids (protein) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20.0                   | 23.6               |

Applying the necessary tolerance (Limits of Variation) the sample contained 1.6% excess of albuminoids (protein)—a not unwelcome variant.

## Water Supply.

Some sixteen samples were examined on behalf of the Health Department, and excellent results were obtained. Special attention is always paid to the possible incidence of lead, and freedom from this metallic contaminant was a feature throughout.

The Public Supplies are, in one's opinion, amongst the most valuable assets of Rochdale. From whatsoever angle they are regarded—salinity, degree of "hardness," aesthetic appeal, organic state and wholesomeness—and the consistent control of quality, (as witnessed by the monthly samples submitted by the Water Engineer)—affords valuable data for assessing any variation in "reaction", physical properties and stability, consequent upon adverse climatic or other unforeseen conditions.

S. ERNEST MELLING, F.I.C.,  
Public Analyst.

## SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

The arrangements made during 1942, whereby cleansing was carried out by First Aid Post personnel at one of the First Aid Posts were terminated on the disbandment of the Civil Defence personnel. Following on this, separate premises near the centre of the town were acquired and adapted for the purpose of cleansing both males and females suffering from scabies or other verminous conditions. In view, however, of the difficulties inherent in adapting buildings at this time, interim arrangements had to be made and remained in force at the end of the year.

The general working of the Cleansing Station is under the supervision of a District Sanitary Inspector.

To suit all persons concerned, sessions have been arranged in the morning and in the afternoon of each day throughout the week. Evening sessions are available as required for those engaged in industry.

The following table shows the number of persons cleansed at these Stations :-

|                             | 1945         | 1944         | 1943         |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Scabies ... ..              | 1,021        | 1,698        | 1,588        |
| Verminous Conditions ... .. | 180          | 63           | 58           |
| Total ...                   | <u>1,201</u> | <u>1,761</u> | <u>1,646</u> |

At the same time arrangements have been made whereby all reports of verminous conditions, including Scabies, are collected in one register in the Public Health Department. These reports may come from the Education Department, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, owners or occupiers of premises and other persons or organisations. All premises reported in this category are visited by the Sanitary Inspector and advice given according to the degree of infestation and the general condition of the premises. Steps are taken to ensure that all persons infested with Scabies in the family attend at the Cleansing Centre.

It has not been found necessary to institute proceedings under the Order.

## PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The chief infectious diseases showed a very marked decrease as compared with 1944 and with the average for the preceding five years. This decrease covers practically the whole field and the most substantial decrease is, however, in respect of measles which during 1945 showed only the last stages of the 1944 epidemic.

It is again gratifying to note the continued decline in diphtheria, there being only 30 cases notified as against 49 in 1944 and an average of 84 in the five years 1939-43. The last time that the figure of 30 cases was recorded in Rochdale was in 1910, this being the lowest figure since 1899 with 29. In these years, however, the population was very much less than it is at present and the severity of the disease was more marked—nine deaths in 1910, and thirteen deaths in 1899, as against only two deaths in this year.

The notification of the various diseases totalled 660 as against 1,700, the previous year and an average of 1,293 during the five years 1939-1943. Comparative figures are given in the following summary :—

|                                                  | 1945       | 1944         | Average<br>5 yrs.<br>1939-43 |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... ..                             | 131        | 275          | 175                          |
| Diphtheria (1945 includes 1 non-civilian) ... .. | 30         | 49           | 84                           |
| Tuberculosis ... ..                              | 77         | 97           | 110                          |
| Pneumonia ... ..                                 | 34         | 35           | 38                           |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                            | 73         | 160          | 184                          |
| Measles ... ..                                   | 291        | 1,036        | 653                          |
| C.S. Meningitis ... ..                           | 3          | 5            | 24                           |
| Other Diseases ... ..                            | 21         | 43           | 25                           |
|                                                  | <u>660</u> | <u>1,700</u> | <u>1,293</u>                 |

In addition to the above formal notifications the following cases of Infectious Diseases were brought to the notice of the Department, chiefly through the medium of schools :—Whooping Cough 9, Measles 7, and Chicken Pox 90.

### Marland Hospital.

There were 357 cases admitted to this Hospital from the Rochdale County Borough and the neighbouring County districts, which together with 60 in Hospital on the 31st December, 1944 makes 417 cases treated during the year, as compared with 721 the previous year.

Of the 29 cases of diphtheria occurring in Rochdale and admitted to Marland Hospital 5 cases were of a severe type and there was one death; 13 cases were of moderate severity and 11 cases were of comparatively mild severity with no deaths in these groups.

A summary of the cases admitted to Hospital from Rochdale and other areas is given below :—

| DISEASE                   |     | In Hospital on 31st December 1944 | Admitted during the Year | Discharged | Died | Remain- ing in Hospital at end of Year 1945 | Ages of Patients Admitted |            |                |
|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|----------------|
|                           |     |                                   |                          |            |      |                                             | Under 5 Years             | 5—15 Years | Above 15 years |
| Scarlet Fever             | ... | 31                                | 191                      | 212        | ...  | 10                                          | 31                        | 143        | 17             |
| Diphtheria                | ... | 22                                | 111                      | 106        | 3    | 24                                          | 23                        | 55         | 34             |
| Enteric Fever             | ... | ...                               | ...                      | ...        | ...  | ...                                         | ...                       | ...        | ...            |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis | ... | 2                                 | 5                        | 4          | 3    | ...                                         | 1                         | 1          | 3              |
| Measles                   | ... | 1                                 | 6                        | 7          | ...  | ...                                         | 2                         | ...        | 4              |
| Tuberculosis              | ... | ...                               | 1                        | ...        | 1    | ...                                         | ...                       | 1          | ...            |
| Erysipelas                | ... | 1                                 | 7                        | 8          | ...  | ...                                         | 1                         | ...        | 6              |
| Puerperal Pyrexia         | ... | ...                               | 8                        | 8          | ...  | ...                                         | ...                       | ...        | 8              |
| Chicken Pox               | ... | 1                                 | 2                        | 3          | ...  | ...                                         | 1                         | 1          | ...            |
| Scabies                   | ... | ...                               | ...                      | ...        | ...  | ...                                         | ...                       | ...        | ...            |
| Other Diseases            | ... | 2                                 | 26                       | 24         | 3    | 1                                           | 11                        | 1          | 13             |
| Total                     | ... | 60                                | 357                      | 372        | 10   | 35                                          | 70                        | 202        | 85             |

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The campaign of general propaganda referred to in last year's report was continued throughout the year in support of the national campaign.

The parents or guardians of each child are sent a card explaining the dangers of Diphtheria and the facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation on the child attaining the age of one, and the Health Visitors are provided with special cards which they again leave at the homes in the course of follow-up visits.

Immunisation continues to be available to the same extent as reported last year. These efforts throughout the year were effective in achieving immunisation in respect of 763 under five and 443 between the ages of 5 and 15. These figures compare with 668 under five and 934 between the age of 5 and 15 in 1944. The fact of the reduction in the number of immunisations in the school age children was largely due to staff difficulties.

The records begun in 1942, to show the immunisation position in each group under 15, were continued throughout the year and the results are given below as at the end of December, 1945, compared with 1944.

| Age | Dec., 1944 |    | Dec., 1945 |    | Age | Dec., 1944 |    | Dec., 1945 |    |
|-----|------------|----|------------|----|-----|------------|----|------------|----|
|     | No.        | %  | No.        | %  |     | No.        | %  | No.        | %  |
| 1   | 495        | 41 | 569        | 45 | 8   | 531        | 52 | 619        | 61 |
| 2   | 612        | 50 | 596        | 49 | 9   | 518        | 51 | 582        | 57 |
| 3   | 590        | 55 | 663        | 54 | 10  | 622        | 58 | 562        | 56 |
| 4   | 749        | 75 | 632        | 58 | 11  | 628        | 65 | 641        | 60 |
| 5   | 627        | 65 | 843        | 84 | 12  | 743        | 71 | 637        | 66 |
| 6   | 571        | 56 | 716        | 71 | 13  | 488        | 45 | 748        | 71 |
| 7   | 568        | 55 | 652        | 63 | 14  | 490        | 40 | 488        | 45 |

Throughout the year A.P.T. was used in two doses of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. with at least four weeks between doses.

During the year we had 19 children under 15 admitted to the hospital suffering from clinical diphtheria. Of these three were severe cases with one death; eight intermediate and eight mild cases. Out of this total six children were stated to have been immunised. Amongst these six there were no severe cases and no deaths.

In four of these cases our records show that a full course of immunisation had been given not less than twelve weeks prior to the date of infection. Two of these cases were mild cases and two intermediate cases. In addition one death from diphtheria in the 5-15 age group occurred in a child not admitted to Marland Hospital.

There were no deaths in the immunised group.

Immunisation against Diphtheria began in Rochdale in 1933 with a slow growth of numbers of immunised children, so that we may say that it was at least 1935 before a significant percentage of the children in Rochdale were immunised.

If, therefore, 1933 and 1934 are regarded as pre-immunisation years, it is now possible to make a comparison of 11 years since immunisation became established with the 10 years prior to immunisation. In the first period 1925-34 inclusive, Diphtheria caused illness of varying severity in 1,364 cases of which 323 were children below school age and 772 children of school age. These cases resulted in 100 deaths of which 45 and 49 were in the two age groups mentioned.

In the next 11 years, 1935-45 inclusive, there were 927 cases of Diphtheria, 151 under five and 565 of school age. These cases resulted in 41 deaths, 14 in the first age group and 24 in the second.

The figures given in the Table below show a decreased mortality throughout the whole field of diphtheria, the decrease being most marked in the under five group, as well as a lower percentage of cases being recorded in the under five group.

# DIPHTHERIA INCIDENCE AND DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE.

1925-34 (Ten Years)

| Age in years :   | Notified Cases |      |             |       | Deaths |      |             |       |
|------------------|----------------|------|-------------|-------|--------|------|-------------|-------|
|                  | 0-5            | 5-15 | 15 and over | Total | 0-5    | 5-15 | 15 and over | Total |
| Number :         | 323            | 772  | 269         | 1364  | 45     | 49   | 6           | 100   |
| Percentage :     | 23.7           | 56.6 | 19.7        | 100   | 45     | 49   | 6           | 100   |
| Case Mortality : | —              | —    | —           | —     | 14     | 6    | 2           | 22    |

1935-45 (Eleven Years)

| Ages in years :  | Notified Cases |      |             |       | Deaths |      |             |       |
|------------------|----------------|------|-------------|-------|--------|------|-------------|-------|
|                  | 0-5            | 5-15 | 15 and over | Total | 0-5    | 5-15 | 15 and over | Total |
| Number :         | 151            | 565  | 211         | 927   | 14     | 24   | 3           | 41    |
| Percentage :     | 16.3           | 61.0 | 22.7        | 100   | 34.2   | 58.5 | 7.3         | 100   |
| Case Mortality : | —              | —    | —           | —     | 9.3    | 4.3  | 1.4         | 15    |

## Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin, Scarletina, Meningococcal and Erysipelas Sera were distributed from the Public Health Department to medical practitioners for use within the Borough. Outside the Department's hours, supplies are available at Marland Hospital.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 77 new cases of tuberculosis notified as against 97 the previous year and 98 in the year 1943, and an average of 113 during the five years 1938-1942.

In addition 19 cases, 10 Pulmonary and 9 Non-pulmonary, came to the knowledge of the Department for the first time other than by notification. Of these 2 Pulmonary and 2 Non-pulmonary were reported after death and 8 Pulmonary and 7 Non-pulmonary were transferred from other areas.

Comparative figures are given below :—

| Average<br>5 year<br>periods | NOTIFICATIONS |                     |       |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------|
|                              | Respiratory   | Non-<br>Respiratory | Total |
| 1913—17                      | 184           | 108                 | 292   |
| 1923—27                      | 85            | 40                  | 125   |
| 1933—37                      | 81            | 26                  | 107   |
| 1938                         | 89            | 27                  | 116   |
| 1939                         | 81            | 22                  | 103   |
| 1940                         | 82            | 32                  | 114   |
| 1941                         | 101           | 26                  | 127   |
| 1942                         | 68            | 37                  | 105   |
| 1943                         | 73            | 25                  | 98    |
| 1944                         | 71            | 26                  | 97    |
| 1945                         | 56            | 21                  | 77    |

The 77 new cases notified, together with the number of deaths resulting from the disease are arranged in the summary below :—

| Age Periods          | New Cases   |     |                     |     | Deaths      |     |                     |     |
|----------------------|-------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
|                      | Respiratory |     | Non-<br>Respiratory |     | Respiratory |     | Non-<br>Respiratory |     |
|                      | M.          | F.  | M.                  | F.  | M.          | F.  | M.                  | F.  |
| Under 1 year         | ...         | ... | 1                   | ... | ...         | ... | 1                   | ... |
| 1—5 years            | ...         | ... | 3                   | ... | ...         | ... | 1                   | ... |
| 5—15 „               | 5           | 3   | 2                   | 1   | ...         | ... | ...                 | ... |
| 15—25 „              | 7           | 5   | 1                   | 4   | 9           | 8   | 1                   | 1   |
| 25—35 „              | 7           | 5   | 1                   | ... |             |     |                     |     |
| 35—45 „              | 5           | 2   | 1                   | 4   |             |     |                     |     |
| 45—55 „              | 12          | 1   | 1                   | 1   | 12          | 1   | 1                   | 1   |
| 55—65 „              | 3           | ... | 1                   | ... |             |     |                     |     |
| 65 years and<br>over | 1           | ... | ...                 | ... | 1           | 1   | ...                 | ... |
| TOTAL                | 40          | 16  | 11                  | 10  | 22          | 10  | 4                   | 2   |
| 1944                 | 44          | 27  | 13                  | 13  | 21          | 18  | 3                   | 7   |

The following table gives a summary of the known cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough as at the 31st December, 1945 :—

|                        | Males | Females | Total |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Respiratory ... ..     | 212   | 153     | 365   |
| Non-Respiratory ... .. | 96    | 75      | 171   |
|                        | 308   | 228     | 536   |

The following Tables show Rochdale's experience in Pulmonary Tuberculosis prior to and since the outbreak of the 1939-45 war.

**TABLE I.**  
**Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

| Year | Male   | Female | Total | Rate | Year | Male   | Female | Total | Rate |
|------|--------|--------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|-------|------|
| 1935 | (6)41  | (5)26  | 67    | 0.71 | 1941 | (12)62 | (6)39  | 101   | 1.18 |
| 1936 | (6)53  | (6)42  | 95    | 1.02 | 1942 | (2)46  | (2)22  | 68    | 0.82 |
| 1937 | (9)50  | (6)28  | 78    | 0.85 | 1943 | (3)53  | (-)20  | 73    | 0.90 |
| 1938 | (17)62 | (10)27 | 89    | 0.97 | 1944 | (1)44  | (6)27  | 71    | 0.87 |
| 1939 | (3)43  | (5)38  | 81    | 0.90 | 1945 | (5)40  | (3)16  | 56    | 0.69 |
| 1940 | (6)45  | (7)37  | 82    | 0.93 |      |        |        |       |      |

**TABLE II.**  
**Notifications of Death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

| Year | Male  | Female | Total | Rate | Year | Male | Female | Total | Rate |
|------|-------|--------|-------|------|------|------|--------|-------|------|
| 1935 | 32    | (2)25  | 55    | 0.58 | 1941 | 34   | 19     | 53    | 0.67 |
| 1936 | (1)28 | (1)21  | 49    | 0.53 | 1942 | 25   | 19     | 44    | 0.53 |
| 1937 | 37    | 13     | 50    | 0.54 | 1943 | 22   | 14     | 36    | 0.44 |
| 1938 | 32    | 12     | 44    | 0.48 | 1944 | 21   | 18     | 39    | 0.48 |
| 1939 | 23    | 18     | 41    | 0.46 | 1945 | 22   | 10     | 32    | 0.39 |
| 1940 | 27    | (1)24  | 51    | 0.59 |      |      |        |       |      |

The figures in brackets give the cases, either in incidence or mortality, under 15 years of age.

Tables I and II would indicate that so far as Rochdale is concerned Pulmonary Tuberculosis did not show any marked tendency to increase in either incidence or mortality during the war period. It is true that there is evidence of a small and temporary increase in 1941, while conditions in so many directions were unsettled. It must also be borne in mind that the population figures on which these rates are based are the figures of the estimate of civilian population and not true population figures.

For the purpose of this comparison the cases in the following Tables were selected so as to satisfy the following conditions:—

- (a) Pulmonary tuberculosis definitely diagnosed ;
- (b) Death due to pulmonary tuberculosis, or without the intervention of some quite unrelated cause ;
- (c) Over school leaving age ;
- (d) Known to the T.B. dispensary for a sufficient period to allow of the necessary information being obtained.

TABLE III.

|                       | Cases                                | M.                   | F.                                              | Classification |    |             |             |             |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                       |                                      |                      |                                                 | —              | +1 | +2          | +3          |             |
| 1937-39<br>Number ... | 103                                  | 71                   | 32                                              | 26             | —  | 58          | 19          |             |
| Percentage            |                                      | 69                   | 31                                              | 25             | —  | 56          | 18          |             |
| 1940-45<br>Number ... | 216                                  | 130                  | 86                                              | 57             | 5  | 101         | 53          |             |
| Percentage            |                                      | 60                   | 40                                              | 26             | 2½ | 47          | 25          |             |
|                       | Onset of Symptoms<br>to Notification |                      | Average in Months from<br>Notification to Death |                |    |             |             |             |
|                       | Cases                                | Average in<br>Months | Total<br>Cases                                  | All<br>Cases   | —  | +1<br>Ctses | +2<br>Cases | +3<br>Cases |
| 1937-39 ...           | 96                                   | 6                    | 103                                             | 30             | 27 | —           | 35          | 18          |
| 1940-45 ...           | 196                                  | 8                    | 216                                             | 37             | 41 | 135         | 39          | 12          |

In Table III an increase of the percentage of women dying from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is noted, this may be partly a reflection of the higher rate of call of men to the armed forces, i.e., away from civilian population, and partly of the increased employment of women in heavy industries during the war. The increased period between the first onset of symptoms and notification of Tuberculosis may again be the reflection of two factors—the anxiety of the worker to keep up the war-time production and the higher pressure on a depleted General Practitioner strength.

It should also be noted that the period of survival from notification to death was increased during the war period in all classes of patients except the most advanced at the time of notification, i.e., those in T.B. +3 Group.

TABLE IV.

| Cases<br>Notified<br>in<br>1934 | Total | Died | Removed from<br>Register | Known Survivals<br>at end of year | Cases<br>Notified<br>in<br>1940 | Total | Died | Removed from<br>Register | Known Survivals<br>at end of year |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1934 T.B. - ...                 | 19    | 7    | —                        | 12                                | 1940 T.B. -                     | 29    | 5    | 3                        | 21                                |
| + 1 ...                         | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 | + 1                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| + 2 ...                         | 29    | 6    | 1                        | 22                                | + 2                             | 23    | 3    | —                        | 20                                |
| + 3 ...                         | 9     | 5    | —                        | 4                                 | + 3                             | 11    | 5    | —                        | 6                                 |
| Unclass ...                     | 6     | 3    | —                        | 3                                 | Unclass ...                     | 6     | 6    | —                        | —                                 |
| 1935 T.B. - ...                 | 12    | 2    | —                        | 10                                | 1941 T.B. -                     | 21    | 3    | 1                        | 17                                |
| + 1 ...                         | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 | + 1                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| + 2 ...                         | 22    | 10   | 1                        | 11                                | + 2                             | 20    | 7    | —                        | 13                                |
| + 3 ...                         | 4     | 4    | —                        | —                                 | + 3                             | 6     | 4    | —                        | 2                                 |
| Unclass ...                     | 3     | 3    | —                        | —                                 |                                 |       |      |                          |                                   |
| 1936 T.B. - ...                 | 10    | —    | —                        | 10                                | 1942 T.B. -                     | 17    | 1    | —                        | 16                                |
| + 1 ...                         | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 | + 1                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| + 2 ...                         | 11    | 5    | —                        | 6                                 | + 2                             | 13    | 3    | —                        | 10                                |
| + 3 ...                         | —     | —    | —                        | —                                 | + 3                             | 2     | —    | 1                        | 1                                 |
| 1937 T.B. - ...                 | 10    | 1    | —                        | 9                                 | 1943 T.B. -                     | 16    | —    | —                        | 16                                |
| + 1 ...                         | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 | + 1                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| + 2 ...                         | 6     | 1    | —                        | 5                                 | + 2                             | 10    | 2    | 1                        | 7                                 |
| + 3 ...                         | —     | —    | —                        | —                                 | + 3                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| 1938 T.B. - ...                 | 9     | —    | —                        | 9                                 | 1944 T.B. -                     | 16    | —    | —                        | 16                                |
| + 1 ...                         | 1     | 1    | —                        | —                                 | + 1                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| + 2 ...                         | 5     | 2    | —                        | 3                                 | + 2                             | 7     | 1    | —                        | 6                                 |
| + 3 ...                         | —     | —    | —                        | —                                 | + 3                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| 1939 T.B. - ...                 | 9     | 2    | —                        | 7                                 | 1945 T.B. -                     | 16    | —    | 2                        | 14                                |
| + 1 ...                         | —     | —    | —                        | —                                 | + 1                             | 1     | —    | —                        | 1                                 |
| + 2 ...                         | 3     | 1    | —                        | 2                                 | + 2                             | 6     | 1    | —                        | 5                                 |
| + 3 ...                         | —     | —    | —                        | —                                 | + 3                             | 1     | 1    | —                        | —                                 |

TABLE V.

|                   |     |     | Died   | Left<br>Town | Removed<br>from<br>Register | Alive<br>not<br>well | Alive<br>and<br>well |
|-------------------|-----|-----|--------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1934 Notification | ... | ... | 53 83% | 2            | —                           | 2                    | 7 11%                |
| 1940 Notification | ... | ... | 42 60% | 6            | 2                           | 5                    | 15 21%               |

Tables IV and V. deal with two separate groups of patients, namely those notified in 1934 with approximately five years experience prior to the onset of war and those notified in 1940 with experience only of war-time conditions. At the end of five years the percentage surviving alive and well is higher in the war period than in the previous five years.

The examination of these figures would suggest that the factor of high wage levels together with security of employment and a satisfactory national dietary, controlled so far as quality is concerned, are together the main props of national health and can out-weigh many other adverse factors. Since the Tuberculosis Service includes domiciliary conditions in its supervision it is probable that the factor of intelligent management should be added. These factors must, therefore, not be forgotten in planning for the care of the tuberculous, in the making of allowances, in the provision of suitable employment and in the provision of additional items of diet of a specified nature.

### **Tuberculosis Dispensary.**

Three clinic sessions have been held weekly and the number of new cases examined as suspected tuberculosis was 348 as against 348 the previous year.

In addition 79 persons were examined as Contacts as against 75 the previous year.

The result of the examinations showed that 61, or 17.5 per cent. of the new cases were suffering from some form of tuberculosis, chiefly tuberculosis of the respiratory system, as against 65 or 18 per cent. in 1944. One of the 79 Contacts was found to be definitely tuberculous as compared with four out of 75 the previous year.

In addition 118 men were examined by the Medical Officer chiefly under the Local Government Superannuation and Silicosis Schemes and Civilian Medical Boards.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in the summary below :—

|                                                      | 1944  | 1945  |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Number of New Cases examined (excl. Contacts) ...    | 348   | 348   |
| Total Number of Attendances of Patients ...          | 2,672 | 2,532 |
| Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1945—            |       |       |
| Highest 30—Lowest 5) ...                             | 18    | 17    |
| Number of Contacts examined ...                      | 75    | 79    |
| Dressings and Injections carried out during the year | 134   | 130   |
| Personal and other Consultations by Tuberculosis     |       |       |
| Officer ...                                          | 1,200 | 1,405 |
| Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses ...               | 2,465 | 2,067 |
| Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary              |       |       |
| (Year 1945—Negative 2) ...                           | 12    | 3     |
| X-Ray Examinations ...                               | 374   | 366   |

### Standard Maintenance Allowance.

The Standard Maintenance Allowances Scheme for Pulmonary Tuberculosis introduced in May, 1943, in accordance with Memo. 266T. has been continued during the year, together with Discretionary Allowances and Special Payments where required.

During the year Standard Allowances have been made to 76 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis coming within the definitions laid down, and in 1 case extension of allowance has been made with the approval of the Ministry. Special Allowances have been made in 5 cases and Discretionary Allowances have been made in 3 cases.

It is not felt that any further comment need be made on this Scheme which has already been discussed in the last two Annual Reports. In spite of the fact that certain deficiencies and anomalies in the Scheme have not been altered the Scheme has continued to be highly acceptable both to the Tuberculosis Department and to the patients concerned.

There is within the Scheme itself sufficient discretion left to the Local Authority to provide for most of the deserving cases which come to its notice.

### Other Financial Assistance.

Necessitous cases of tuberculosis were also assisted in various ways during the year :—

|                                                | 1944 | 1945 |
|------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| (a) Clothing and footgear provided ...         | 2    | 4    |
| (b) Extra Nourishment—Milk, Malt and Oil, etc. | 23   | 18   |
| (c) House rent paid from a special Fund during |      |      |
| residence of patient in Sanatorium ...         | 2    | 5    |
| (d) Bedstead and Bed Clothing ...              | 2    | 2    |
| (e) Sets of Dentures provided ...              | —    | —    |

Where better housing conditions are necessary in respect of families which include a case of "open tuberculosis" the Council, through its Housing Committee continues to give preference to such cases. Where possible these cases are given priority in the allocation of Corporation houses, but not in such a manner as to create Tuberculosis colonies or groups.

### Residential Treatment.

There were 25 patients in residence at various Sanatoria on the 31st December, 1944, and during the year 81 other patients (51 males, 30 females) were admitted as shown in summary below :—

| Institutions                              | Remaining<br>in Hospital<br>at end of 1944 | Admissions |           |           | Discharged<br>during 1945 | Died      | Remaining<br>in Hospital<br>at end of 1945 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                           |                                            | Total      | Males     | Females   |                           |           |                                            |
| Wolstenholme Pulmonary<br>Hospital ... .. | 8                                          | 32         | 32        | —         | 26                        | 6         | 8                                          |
| Springfield Sanatorium ...                | 4                                          | 16         | —         | 16        | 8                         | 4         | 8                                          |
| Stannington Sanatorium ...                | —                                          | —          | —         | —         | —                         | —         | —                                          |
| Memorial Home, Norden ...                 | 9                                          | 12         | 7         | 5         | 13                        | —         | 8                                          |
| Shropshire Orth. Hospital                 | 2                                          | 16         | 8         | 8         | 16                        | —         | 2                                          |
| Other Sanatoria ... ..                    | 2                                          | 5          | 4         | 1         | 3                         | —         | 4                                          |
| <b>TOTAL ... ..</b>                       | <b>25</b>                                  | <b>81</b>  | <b>51</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>66</b>                 | <b>10</b> | <b>30</b>                                  |

### Springfield Sanatorium.

This institution, situated adjoining Springfield Park, provides accommodation for 36 female patients, one half of which is reserved for women patients residing in the area of the Lancashire County Council. In addition to 16 Rochdale patients admitted there were 42 patients admitted from the Lancashire County, making 58 in total, as against 56 the previous year.

Artificial Pneumothorax Inductions were successful in 4 cases, 2 of Borough patients and 2 of County patients ; 2 inductions were unsuccessful in the case of County patients, 356 Refills were performed ; 285 to Borough patients and 71 to County patients.

Phrenic Evulsion was performed in 1 case of a County patient, and 1 Rib Re-section in the case of a Borough patient.

502 X-ray examinations (with films) were made during the year ; 402 of these were of out-patients from the County Borough ; 82 were of in-patients of the Sanatorium (12 being Borough cases and 70 being Lancashire County Council cases) ; and 18 examinations were of Nursing Staff contacts of these patients.

A further 497 X-ray examinations without films, i.e., screen examinations, were made during the course of and as a guide to treatment ; of these, 402 examinations were on behalf of Borough in-patients and out-patients and 95 on behalf of Lancashire County Council in-patients.

### **Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).**

The former relates to persons engaged in the milk or dairy trade who are suffering from tuberculosis, while the latter confers powers for the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. No occasion has arisen during the year where it has been found necessary to make use of the powers conferred by this Act and Regulation.

### **VENEREAL DISEASES.**

No change has taken place in the clinic arrangements for dealing with this disease. There were 648 cases (328 males and 320 females) dealt with during the year, as against 565 in 1944. The number of new cases was 326 which is below the average for the years prior to the war.

The following summary gives the number of cases dealt with during the past three years :—

|                                                                                                                                  | Year | 1943  | 1944  | 1945  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                                                                                                                  |      | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 1. No. of persons under treatment or observation at commencement of year ... ..                                                  |      | 224   | 226   | 282   |
| 2. No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection ... .. |      | 3     | 6     | 8     |
| 3. No. of cases who have had previous treatment                                                                                  |      | 13    | 13    | 32    |
| 4. No. of new cases ... ..                                                                                                       |      | 325   | 320   | 326   |
|                                                                                                                                  |      | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total cases dealt with ... ..                                                                                                    |      | 565   | 565   | 648   |
|                                                                                                                                  |      | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 5. Total attendances—For attention of Medical Officer                                                                            |      | 7,826 | 6,366 | 6,074 |
| For irrigation, dressing, etc.                                                                                                   |      | 8,344 | 6,581 | 5,566 |
| 6. No. who ceased to attend—                                                                                                     |      |       |       |       |
| (a) Before completion of treatment ...                                                                                           |      | 29    | 21    | 35    |
| (b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure ... ..                                                      |      | 7     | —     | —     |
| 7. No. discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal ... ..                 |      | 275   | 245   | 344   |

### **Pathological Examinations.**

The arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for pathological work has been continued. The specimens referred from the clinic and examined at the Laboratory number 762 as compared with 640 the previous year.

**TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1945,  
and previous years.**

| Year                              | Population<br>estimated<br>to<br>Middle<br>of<br>each<br>Year | LIVE BIRTHS |                                            | Nett Deaths belonging to the District. |                                          |             |                                            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                   |                                                               | Nett        |                                            | Under 1 year of age                    |                                          | At All Ages |                                            |
|                                   |                                                               | Number      | Rate per<br>1,000<br>of est.<br>population | Number                                 | Rate per<br>1,000<br>Nett<br>Live Births | Number      | Rate per<br>1,000<br>of est.<br>population |
| 1935                              | 94,100                                                        | 1094        | 11.6                                       | 93                                     | 85                                       | 1311        | 13.9                                       |
| 1936                              | 93,250                                                        | 1096        | 11.8                                       | 76                                     | 69                                       | 1408        | 15.1                                       |
| 1937                              | 91,940                                                        | 1093        | 11.9                                       | 58                                     | 53                                       | 1415        | 15.4                                       |
| 1938                              | 91,290                                                        | 1096        | 12.0                                       | 69                                     | 63                                       | 1271        | 13.9                                       |
| 1939                              | *90,300                                                       | 997         | 11.0                                       | 55                                     | 55                                       | 1322        | 14.7                                       |
| 1940                              | †86,670                                                       | 1072        | 12.4                                       | 96                                     | 89                                       | 1575        | 18.2                                       |
| 1941                              | †85,780                                                       | 1136        | 13.2                                       | 76                                     | 67                                       | 1371        | 16.0                                       |
| 1942                              | †83,150                                                       | 1276        | 15.3                                       | 90                                     | 71                                       | 1282        | 15.4                                       |
| 1943                              | †81,550                                                       | 1268        | 15.5                                       | 58                                     | 46                                       | 1324        | 16.2                                       |
| 1944                              | †81,380                                                       | 1320        | 16.2                                       | 67                                     | 50                                       | 1174        | 14.4                                       |
| Average<br>for years<br>1935-1944 | 87,941                                                        | 1144        | 13.0                                       | 73                                     | 64                                       | 1345        | 15.3                                       |
| 1945                              | †81,100                                                       | 1267        | 15.6                                       | 56                                     | 44                                       | 1263        | 15.5                                       |

\* Estimated Population for Birth-rate. The corresponding figure for Death-rate is 89,830.

† „ Civilian Population

**TABLE II.**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.**  
**Year 1945.**

|                                                              | All<br>Ages | 0-        | 1-       | 5-       | 15-       | 45-        | 65-        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| <b>ALL CAUSES</b> ... Males ...                              | <b>623</b>  | <b>31</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>56</b> | <b>177</b> | <b>350</b> |
| ... Females                                                  | <b>640</b>  | <b>25</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>44</b> | <b>156</b> | <b>403</b> |
| 1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers                             | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...      | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 2—Cerebro-spinal Fever                                       | 2           | ...       | 1        | ...      | ...       | 1          | ...        |
| 3—Scarlet Fever                                              | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...      | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 4—Whooping Cough                                             | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...      | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 5—Diphtheria                                                 | 2           | ...       | ...      | 2        | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System                         | 32          | ...       | ...      | ...      | 17        | 13         | 2          |
| 7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis                                | 6           | 1         | 1        | ...      | 2         | 2          | ...        |
| 8—Syphilitic Disease                                         | 7           | 1         | ...      | ...      | ...       | 6          | ...        |
| 9—Influenza                                                  | 9           | 1         | ...      | ...      | 2         | 2          | 4          |
| 10—Measles                                                   | 2           | ...       | 2        | ...      | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 11—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis                 | ...         | ...       | ...      | ...      | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 12—Acute Infectious Encephalitis                             | 1           | ...       | ...      | ...      | ...       | ...        | 1          |
| 13—Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus                    | 13          | ...       | ...      | ...      | ...       | 4          | 9          |
| ... Cancer of Uterus                                         | 12          | ...       | ...      | ...      | 3         | 6          | 3          |
| 14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum                            | 33          | ...       | ...      | ...      | 1         | 14         | 18         |
| 15—Cancer of Breast                                          | 16          | ...       | ...      | ...      | 1         | 9          | 6          |
| 16—Cancer of all other sites                                 | 108         | ...       | ...      | 1        | 8         | 43         | 56         |
| 17—Diabetes                                                  | 6           | ...       | ...      | ...      | 2         | 2          | 2          |
| 18—Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions                            | 153         | ...       | ...      | ...      | 3         | 36         | 114        |
| 19—Heart Disease                                             | 372         | ...       | ...      | ...      | 24        | 81         | 267        |
| 20—Other Diseases of the Circulatory System                  | 70          | ...       | ...      | ...      | ...       | 11         | 59         |
| 21—Bronchitis                                                | 130         | 1         | ...      | ...      | 2         | 40         | 87         |
| 22—Pneumonia                                                 | 42          | 13        | 3        | ...      | 3         | 6          | 17         |
| 23—Other Respiratory Diseases                                | 16          | ...       | ...      | ...      | 3         | 10         | 3          |
| 24—Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum                     | 11          | ...       | ...      | ...      | 3         | 5          | 3          |
| 25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)                          | 2           | 2         | ...      | ...      | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 26—Appendicitis                                              | 4           | ...       | ...      | ...      | 1         | 1          | 2          |
| 27—Other Digestive Diseases                                  | 15          | 1         | ...      | 1        | 1         | 4          | 8          |
| 28—Nephritis                                                 | 46          | ...       | ...      | 1        | 3         | 12         | 30         |
| 29—Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis...                     | 1           | ...       | ...      | ...      | 1         | ...        | ...        |
| 30—Other Maternal Causes                                     | 3           | ...       | ...      | ...      | 3         | ...        | ...        |
| 31—Premature Birth                                           | 24          | 24        | ...      | ...      | ...       | ...        | ...        |
| 32—Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease | 9           | 8         | ...      | ...      | ...       | 1          | ...        |
| 33—Suicide                                                   | 11          | ...       | ...      | ...      | 1         | 3          | 7          |
| 34—Road Traffic Accidents                                    | 6           | ...       | 2        | 2        | 1         | ...        | 1          |
| 35—Other Violent Causes                                      | 22          | 2         | ...      | ...      | ...       | 5          | 15         |
| 36—All Other Causes                                          | 77          | 2         | 2        | 3        | 15        | 16         | 39         |

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Net Deaths from stated causes at various  
Ages under one year of age—Year 1945.

| CLASSIFIED<br>CAUSES OF DEATH               |     |     |     | AGE AT DEATH     |                        |            |            |             | Total<br>Deaths<br>under<br>1 year |      |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------|
|                                             |     |     |     | Under<br>4 weeks | 4 weeks to<br>3 months | 3-6 months | 6-9 months | 9-12 months | 1944                               | 1945 |
|                                             |     |     |     |                  |                        |            |            |             |                                    |      |
| Whooping Cough                              | ... | ... | ... | ...              | ...                    | ...        | ...        | ...         | ...                                | ...  |
| Diphtheria                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...              | ...                    | ...        | ...        | ...         | ...                                | ...  |
| Tubercular Diseases                         | ... | ... | ... | ...              | ...                    | 1          | ...        | ...         | ...                                | 1    |
| Syphilitic Disease                          | ... | ... | 1   | ...              | ...                    | ...        | ...        | ...         | ...                                | 1    |
| Influenza                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...              | ...                    | ...        | ...        | 1           | ...                                | 1    |
| Measles                                     | ... | ... | ... | ...              | ...                    | ...        | ...        | ...         | ...                                | ...  |
| Bronchitis                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...              | 1                      | ...        | ...        | ...         | 1                                  | 1    |
| Pneumonia                                   |     | ... | 1   | 2                | 5                      | 3          | 2          | 9           | 13                                 |      |
| Other Respiratory Diseases                  | ... | ... | ... | ...              | ...                    | ...        | ...        | 1           | ...                                |      |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis                     | ... | ... | ... | 1                | ...                    | 1          | ...        | 1           | 2                                  |      |
| Other Digestive Diseases                    | ... | ... | ... | ...              | 1                      | ...        | ...        | 1           | 1                                  |      |
| Premature Birth                             | ... | ... | 23  | 1                | ...                    | ...        | ...        | 20          | 24                                 |      |
| Congenital Debility,<br>Malformations, etc. |     | ... | 6   | 1                | 1                      | ...        | ...        | 28          | 8                                  |      |
| Violence                                    | ... | ... | ... | 2                | ...                    | ...        | ...        | ...         | 2                                  |      |
| Other Causes                                | ... | ... | ... | 1                | 1                      | ...        | ...        | 6           | 2                                  |      |
| ALL CAUSES                                  | ... | ... | 34  | 7                | 7                      | 5          | 3          | 67          | 56                                 |      |

Net Live Births in the year :—Legitimate 1,149 ; Illegitimate 118.

Net Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 47 ; Illegitimate infants 9.

**REPORT**  
ON THE  
**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF**  
**SCHOOL CHILDREN.**

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE

**To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1945, being the thirty-eighth report on the work of the School Medical Service. Once again, for reasons of economy, the report is presented in a curtailed form.

### **Staff.**

There have been no changes in the strength of the staff, which consists of the School Medical Officer (the Medical Officer of Health), one full-time Assistant Medical Officer, a part-time Officer who takes certain school clinics and does most of the immunising, a part-time Aurist, a part-time Ophthalmologist, five Nurses and a Junior Clerk., The Nursery Schools are under the care of the Infant Welfare Officer.

The Dental staff consisted at the end of 1945 of two Dental Officers, one serving with H.M. Forces and one actually doing school dental work. The temporary Dental Officer appointed in 1943 resigned in August. There are two Dental Attendants.

### **School Premises.**

The only new building is the kitchen at Ashfield Road which was opened in September and which can supply 2,000 meals a day. Progress has been made with the removal of black-out paint from skylights and upper windows, but this work has not yet been completed.

### **ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.**

A great effort was made to recover the ground lost in 1944 for reasons given in last year's report. Twenty-four of the thirty-three schools were inspected, but such a large number of children were due for examination (in many cases two years had elapsed since the previous inspection) that it was not possible to visit the remaining nine. It will be noticed that the figures for "routine inspection" are much larger than usual, and, as a direct result of this, the numbers referred to all the consultant clinics are larger. It was necessary to hold extra clinics occasionally for refractions and aural examination.

**Total Inspections during the year by the Medical Officers :—**

|                                                                                                                          | 1944          | 1945          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Routine Inspections :—                                                                                                   |               |               |
| Elementary Schools ... ..                                                                                                | 1,050         | 2,517         |
| Secondary Schools ... ..                                                                                                 | —             | 556           |
| Special Inspections ... ..                                                                                               | 259           | 319           |
| Re-inspections ... ..                                                                                                    | 141           | 123           |
| Open-air School Inspections ... ..                                                                                       | 2,618         | 2,393         |
| Clinic Inspections ... ..                                                                                                | 3,259         | 2,664         |
| Clinic Re-inspections ... ..                                                                                             | 3,921         | 2,354         |
| Special examinations at Clinic (for superannuation, repatriation, intelligence tests, part-time employment, etc.) ... .. | —             | 407           |
|                                                                                                                          | <u>11,248</u> | <u>11,333</u> |
| Cases seen by Ophthalmologist ... ..                                                                                     | 460           | 552           |
| Cases seen by Aurist ... ..                                                                                              | 253           | 274           |
| Cases seen by Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon                                                                               | 75            | 173           |

**Uncleanliness.**

The School Nurses made 14,489 inspections during 1945 and found 86.64% children clean and 13.36% unclean. These percentages are almost identical with those for 1944. Sixty-six verminous children were cleansed at the Centre. This figure has increased very much (18 in 1944) chiefly because of the increased popularity of the Centre since the heads are treated with D.D.T. Suspension instead of by the mechanical removal of nits and vermin.

**Scabies.**

The following numbers were dealt with during the year :—

|                                 | 1944 | 1945 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| Scabies diagnosed ... ..        | 478  | 581  |
| Cases treated at Centre ... ..  | 474  | 573  |
| Home treatments ... ..          | 3    | —    |
| Treated by family doctor ... .. | 22   | —    |
| Awaiting treatment ... ..       | —    | 8    |

It will be noticed that in no case was treatment at the Centre refused. Although larger numbers have been dealt with the School Nurses have had less work to do in connection with scabies than in former years because of the readiness of the public to take advantage of the facilities at the Centre. Prejudice seems to have died out and the feeling that it is a disgrace to suffer from scabies has vanished.

## FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Towards the end of 1945 cases of gingivitis, of which only a few cases were seen here during the whole of the war period, began to be met with in increasing numbers. The condition seems to occur rather more frequently in boys than in girls and always starts in the same place, i.e., the gum margin immediately adjoining the lower central incisors, gradually spreading laterally and to the upper jaw. A parent has been interviewed whenever possible in these cases and often the parent is found to have gums in the same condition, but in worse degree. It is not confined to "dirty" people, but does occur more frequently among careless people and those of limited intelligence who are not particular about oral hygiene or a well-balanced diet either for themselves or for their families. Most cases rapidly improve when given vitamin C internally and gentian violet solution applied to the gums together with careful attention to cleanliness, but sometimes after an initially rapid improvement, a little of the inflammation remains, very resistant to treatment. Even at the Open Air School where the food is ample, well-prepared, with plenty of fresh vegetables and where strict cleanliness is maintained, a few slight cases have been found during the winter, but these quickly improved with rose-hip syrup or vitamin C tablets.

Another condition, which, though not serious, can be troublesome and resistant to treatment and which has been noticed during recent months only, is an inflamed patch on the outer ear canal. In this case the child complains of slight but definite earache with some tenderness when the ear is handled. On examination the drum is found to be normal but a small bright red tender patch can be seen, usually on the floor of the ear passage. This eventually heals if treated with gentian violet solution, but often lasts several weeks.

Elementary school children must surely of the whole community be the section best "conditioned" to the idea of a preventive and curative medical service. Time after time, children of both junior and senior school age, particularly boys, come along to the school clinic, not prompted by parent or teacher, to ask advice or to have treatment, and it is often pleasantly refreshing to hear their straightforward account of their symptoms, uncomplicated by the irrelevancies so often included by parents in giving a case history. Very few children are nervous of clinics today and what they have lost in fear they have gained in candour and friendliness.

### Minor Ailment Clinic.

The total attendances during 1945 were 16,171 and the individual cases numbered 4,824. Following the practice of recent years, this clinic remained open all the year except for the public holidays and a fortnight in August, including Rushbearing week. The afternoons during school holidays are normally devoted to special examinations of superannuation cases, backward, mentally defective and other handicapped children, and clerical work, including report-writing, which occupies an increasing amount of time.

### **Defective Vision.**

The Ophthalmologist held 41 clinics and did 552 refractions. Because glasses in standard frames have been supplied free to all school children since 1st April, 1944, there is now less follow-up work to be done in connection with the Eye Clinic. The only trouble now is to persuade parents to see that their children actually wear their glasses, and since many parents still do not believe glasses necessary in the absence of external eye conditions and actual complaint of poor vision (which is rare in children), this is often difficult. Many children referred as "specials" for vision are found to have had glasses prescribed long before and sometimes never to have worn them in the class to which they belong.

### **Dental Report.**

During the year 1945, 67 school departments have been visited for routine dental inspection, the total number of children seen being 11,125 and of these 5,485 were referred for treatment. The number actually treated was 3,015. Teeth conserved numbered 2,365 and extractions 3,022.

There has been some dislocation of the service in the last quarter of the year due to the resignation of Mr. Bickerdyke in August, the whole of the work thus falling upon Mr. Young.

The general dental condition of the children regularly receiving treatment continues to be reasonably good. The number in the early age groups requiring treatment, particularly multiple extractions is very much lower than in pre-war years, the result of better infant feeding and the provision of adequate milk, cod-liver oil and orange juice. Unfortunately, the older children, chiefly adolescents, show a greater tendency to dental caries due to the predominantly carbohydrate diet that they are obliged to exist upon and the lack of adequate supplies of protein and fats. Cases of gingivitis are more marked and again these reflect the shortage of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The number of extractions of permanent teeth continues to decline and is negligible in children receiving regular treatment. The main source of such cases are those who do not accept treatment regularly and many teeth that could have been saved are lost through this indifference of parents to the necessity for regular inspection and treatment. This is mainly shown in the Senior Schools, where the children appear in so many cases to be allowed to decide for themselves whether or not they will have treatment, and much of the work done in earlier years is lost through this failure to accept treatment in the last year at school.

The Dental Service has been extended to include the High Schools and all children attending Schools are now within the scope of the scheme.

### **CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC.**

The following report which refers to the work done at this Clinic from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1945, has been supplied by the Medical Director, Dr. W. L. Devlin :—

TABLE 1.

|                             | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Number referred ... ..      | 43   | 54   | 73   | 51   | 37   | 258   |
| Number dealt with ... ..    | 13   | 58   | 52   | 72   | 39   | 234   |
| Number awaiting examination |      |      |      |      |      | 24    |

TABLE II.

|                                                                      |     |     |     |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| <b>Number of New Cases dealt with in 1945</b>                        | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Examined in the Clinic ... ..                                        | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Withdrawn from the Waiting List ... ..                               | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| (i) Symptoms improved, parents considered examination unnecessary... | ... | ... | 1   |    |
| (ii) Parents unwilling for examination                               | ... | ... | 5   |    |
|                                                                      |     |     |     | 39 |

TABLE III.

|                                                                         |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Of the 33 examined in the Clinic :—                                     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Treatment recommended ... ..                                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Diagnostic with recommendations                                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| (i) Environmental adjustment by Social Worker                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   |    |
| (ii) Institutional recommendation (Under Mental Deficiency Acts) ... .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |    |
| (iii) Special School for Educationally Sub-normal Children ... ..       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |    |
|                                                                         |     |     |     |     |     | 33 |

TABLE IV.

|                                                               |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| <b>Closed in 1945</b> ... ..                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Completed Treatment —Adjustment                               | ... | ... | ... | 3   | }   | 11 |
| —Much Improved                                                | ... | ... | ... | 5   |     |    |
| —Improved                                                     | ... | ... | ... | 3   |     |    |
| Parents unwilling for treatment                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Partial improvement. Closed for lack of parental co-operation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Placement recommended ... ..                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Evacuees returned to London                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Environmental adjustment by Social Worker                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
|                                                               |     |     |     |     |     | 30 |

TABLE V.

| Sources of Reference :—                |     |     |     |     | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                        |     |     |     |     | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Education Department                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2    | 5    | 3    | 3    | 4    |
| School Medical Department              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13   | 8    | 34   | 16   | 19   |
| Maternity and Child Welfare Department | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2    | 7    | 13   | 8    | 4    |
| Speech Therapist                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3    | 8    | 3    | —    | —    |
| Teachers                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15   | 17   | 6    | 10   | 3    |
| Magistrates                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6    | —    | 4    | 7    | 4    |
| Private Practitioners                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2    | 3    | 2    | —    | 1    |
| Parents                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | —    | 5    | 8    | 3    | 2    |
| Other Social Agencies                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —    | 1    | —    | 1    | —    |
| Billeting Officer                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | —    | —    | —    | 3    | —    |
|                                        |     |     |     |     | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| TOTALS                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43   | 54   | 73   | 51   | 37   |
|                                        |     |     |     |     | ==   | ==   | ==   | ==   | ==   |

“ The selection of cases for reference has been very good, showing a sound knowledge on the part of School Medical Officers, Head Teachers, Probation and Welfare Officers, of the real aims of Child Guidance work.

An encouraging feature has been the reference to the Clinic of a good many children suffering from personality and habit disorders (the latter comprising cases of enuresis, nail-biting, facial tics, faecal incontinence, etc.). Many of these children would, if untreated, become delinquents and even those who would not do so are usually neurotic to a greater or lesser degree and need treatment.

It is, therefore, helpful to note this wide appreciation of the fact that the Clinic does not exist merely for the treatment of delinquency, but aims at treating the children as far as possible before they become delinquent and is, in any case, for the purpose of treating neurotic children, whether they are likely to become delinquent or not.

In the resignation of Miss M. G. Bavin, Psychiatric Social Worker, in October of this year, the Clinic has suffered a severe loss. Miss Bavin's work was of excellent quality and as she also has a very pleasant personality she is very much missed by both mothers and children. Owing to the shortage of Psychiatric Social Workers it has not been possible so far to replace her and it should be realised that the lack of a social worker is limiting the work of the clinic to a marked extent. It is not possible now to complete the same amount of work as has previously been done.

Sincere thanks are given to the Medical Officer of Health and his staff, to the Director of Education and his staff and to the Probation Officers for their valued help and co-operation.”

Signed, W. H. DEVLIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Director

**Work of the School Nurses.**

|                                                      | 1944          | 1945          |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dressings, etc., at morning clinics ... ..           | 13,985        | 16,171        |
| Cleanliness Inspections ... ..                       | 15,288        | 14,489        |
| Re-inspections ... ..                                | 4,230         | 3,086         |
| Inspections with Medical Officer :—                  |               |               |
| At school ... ..                                     | 4,068         | 8,425         |
| At clinic ... ..                                     | 7,180         | 5,018         |
| Refraction Cases ... ..                              | 460           | 552           |
| Open Air School Inspections ... ..                   | 2,618         | 2,393         |
| Aurists Clinic (examinations and re-examinations)... | —             | 585           |
| Home Visits ... ..                                   | 141           | 95            |
|                                                      | <u>47,970</u> | <u>50,814</u> |

The enormous amount of clinical and clerical work done by the nurses during the last year left insufficient time for all the home visiting that required doing. Home visits can at present only be paid in the most urgent cases.

**Infectious Diseases.**

|                         | 1944         | 1945       |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... ..    | 207          | 93         |
| Diphtheria ... ..       | 30           | 13         |
| Measles ... ..          | 773          | 145        |
| Whooping Cough ... ..   | 97           | 34         |
| Chicken Pox ... ..      | 218          | 90         |
| Other Infections ... .. | 2            | 1          |
|                         | <u>1,327</u> | <u>376</u> |

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

During the year 516 children received some form of immunisation against Diphtheria, at the schools or immunisation clinic. Of these 360 children had a full course of immunisation with A.P.T. and 72 children previously immunised received a second course of one injection. The remainder received part-treatment only.

**Day Open Air School.**

At different times during the year 74 children were discharged from the Open Air School, all cured or much improved of the following conditions :—

|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Girls | Boys |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|
|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |      |
| Rheumatism                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5     | —    |
| Malnutrition                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4     | 6    |
| Pre and Post-tuberculosis       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2     | 10   |
| Heart Disease                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3     | 1    |
| Non-tubercular chest conditions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4     | 8    |
| Nervous conditions              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5     | 5    |
| Orthopædic defects              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2     | —    |
| Anaemia and Debility            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7     | 6    |
| Cases for observation           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4     | 2    |
|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 36    | 38   |

Many children admitted still need teaching to eat a plain normal diet, the mother having complained that they “won’t eat” or that they will only eat a few, frequently unsuitable, foods. If maternal co-operation can be enlisted, these dietetically illiterate children improve quickly and the plain but good and varied fare provided at the school is soon eaten with appetite and enjoyment.

Vacancies are immediately filled, and the average time spent at the school is rather more than a year, but each case is judged solely on its merits and some children are fit to return to their elementary schools after a few months whereas others, especially cripples and heart cases, need to spend the rest of their school life at Brownhill.

### Nursery Schools.

The number of children accepted at the four Nursery Schools after a temporary rise to 100 the previous year was returned to 80. The average number on the roll, the average attendances and the numbers on the waiting list at the end of the year are as follows :—

|               |     |     |     | Average<br>on Roll | Average<br>Attendance | No. on<br>Waiting list<br>at year end |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
|               |     |     |     |                    |                       |                                       |
| Brimrod       | ... | ... | ... | 77                 | 66                    | 63                                    |
| Howard Street | ... | ... | ... | 77                 | 64                    | 106                                   |
| South Street  | ... | ... | ... | 77                 | 59                    | 115                                   |
| Thames Street | ... | ... | ... | 79                 | 69                    | 101                                   |

Taking schools as a whole the months of January and February were the months of lowest attendance. Apart from Measles at the beginning of the year there was no other common cause of absence.

The medical supervision of the children at the schools by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitors of the district in which the schools are situated has continued on the same lines as in previous reports and the same arrangements have been continued whereby the children can share in all the facilities available through the School Medical Services.

The defects found at medical inspections were mainly those referring to teeth, tonsils and adenoids and catarrhal conditions, to errors of nutrition and minor deformities, including defective posture.

Special attention was paid throughout the year to the nutrition standards of the children, all sub-standard children being frequently re-inspected. The special attention mentioned last year has also been continued in respect of the cleanliness of the children. The closest possible follow-up work is carried out in regard to cleanliness by the Nursery School staff, by the Health Visitors and through them by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Public Health Department.

Diphtheria Immunisation was carried out at all schools and the standard of immunisation is very close to the 100% mark.

The activities of the parents' clubs were continued with regular meetings at each of the schools. The programmes included both social and educational meetings and the degree of interest taken continued to be satisfactory.

During the month of May the Assistant Schools Medical Officer carried out a special medical examination of all the children in the schools, of which the following is a summary :—

Four Nursery Schools and the Meanwood Nursery have been medically inspected, all children being examined who were present on the day of inspection. The assessment of nutrition was made according to the standards laid down by the Ministry of Education and in use at the inspection of elementary schools.

The following are the chief items of interest arising out of the inspection :—

1. The general nutritional standard is good and did not vary from one school to another. The findings differed little from those at a good elementary school. A total of 287 children was examined :—

|          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| A group— | 4.8%  | (14)  |
| B group— | 92.0% | (264) |
| C group— | 2.7%  | (8)   |
| D group— | 0.3%  | (1)   |

Of the C cases, six were boys and two girls, three were 2 years old, two were 3 years old and three were 4 years old. The D case was a girl of 4 years.

The impression gained was that the children steadily improve as they attend school and that the leavers are in much better condition than the entrants.

2. The chief defects are of the respiratory tract and, to a somewhat alarming degree, nasal catarrh, frequently of a purulent and profuse nature. This condition seems to have little relation at nursery age and in its early stages to the general health, and was common to all nursery ages and to all nutrition categories.

The totals were as follows :—

|               |                                        |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|
| Meanwood      | 23 out of 33—69% (mostly slight cases) |
| Howard Street | 41 out of 62—66%                       |
| Brimrod       | 33 out of 61—54%                       |
| Thames Street | 43 out of 68—63% (mostly severe cases) |
| South Street  | 41 out of 63—65%                       |

It is this nasal catarrh which adds to the vast amount of sinus infection and ear trouble which so afflicts our older school children and our citizens in general, causing much pain, deafness and general ill health. Although it is outside the scope of this short report to discuss the cause of this particular infection, most of it seems inescapably due to atmospheric pollution, thus the most profuse and purulent cases were at Thames Street where the school garden is the blackest and most barren, and the lowest incidence, comparatively, was at Brimrod where the garden is the greenest and most fertile.

3. The small amount of dental caries is another striking feature. The recent epidemic of measles though yielding the usual crop of squints has not caused any appreciable dental decay. This can only be due to the improved diet, the milk, the orange juice, etc., which our children have had during the recent years. Actually, 36 children showed some caries but it was usually very slight and there was no case of oral sepsis or gum infection.

4. Skin diseases were of low incidence, the impression being that the curious and sometimes intractable rashes from which many older school children have suffered during the war are not affecting the nursery ages to the same extent. Two or three cases of scabies were seen and treatment was immediately arranged.

5. The atmosphere of all schools is admirable. Although they are similar in size, layout, staffing, etc., each has its own individual character. There seems no reason to change the general opinion that the Thames Street district was in the most urgent need of Nursery School provision, the children there are of a poorer average type than elsewhere. Indeed it is still the district in most need of further development of amenities.

#### **Meanwood Nursery Class.**

Arrangements for the medical supervision of this class by the staff of the Child Welfare Department remained as outlined in previous reports.

### Speech Clinic.

Since we have still no Speech Therapist, there has been no Speech Clinic during the year.

### Orthopædic Clinic.

Dr. Bateman treated 173 new cases during 1944 with his usual skill and patience :—

|                         | 1944     | 1945      |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Kyphosis ... ..         | 1        | 11        |
| Foot deformities ... .. | 57       | 123       |
| Postural defects ... .. | 2        | 10        |
| Torticollis ... ..      | —        | 4         |
| Miscellaneous ... ..    | 15       | 25        |
|                         | <hr/> 75 | <hr/> 173 |

It will be noticed that the number of foot defects needing treatment has increased by more than 100% (57 in 1944) and when the school leaving age is raised it is expected that theses cases will again increase.

### In-Patient Treatment of Debility.

Dr. Bateman has also examined 50 children suffering from debility and found them suitable for admission to the Memorial Home. In all these cases very great improvement is manifest on the child's discharge. This invariably good effect of the Memorial Home regime on the debilitated child has led to complete confidence in the Home on the part of the parents and in no case has it, been necessary to persuade a parent to consent to a child's admission.

### Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

During 1945, 274 new cases were referred to this Clinic, of these 225 received operative treatment mainly for removal of tonsils and adenoids and 49 treatment of other kinds. In addition, Mr. Smith made 311 re-examinations. This clinic also commands the confidence of parents who appreciate the careful examination and treatment available. The clinic is held at the Infirmary, but most of the local treatment recommended is carried out at the Minor Ailments Clinic.

### Periodical Weighing of Children.

The weighing of all children at three of our largest schools has continued :—

|                                                | 1944    | 1945   |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Number weighed ... ..                          | 2,524   | 947    |
| Percentage who have gained weight ... ..       | 99.366% | 99.57% |
| Percentage who have lost weight ... ..         | 0.198%  | 0.43%  |
| Percentage who have remained stationary ... .. | 0.435%  | nil    |

### **Provision of Meals.**

During 1945, 17,755 free dinners have been supplied (28,535 in 1944). The number of dinners for which payment was made was 458,886 in 1945 and 440,964 in 1944.

A new kitchen at Ashfield Road was opened in September and it is capable of supplying 2,000 meals daily. The following alterations were made in the canteen arrangements :—

Milton Canteen was closed and Canteens were installed at the three schools previously contributing to Milton, i.e., Townhead, Baillie Street and Redcross Street C.E. Castleton (Handicraft) Canteen was closed and replaced by St. Gabriel's R.C. Canteen.

An addition to the service was the provision of a canteen at St. Alban's C.E. School, making a total of 32 canteens.

Of the schools still without canteens there are five :—Halifax Road, Meanwood, St. John's R.C., Balderstone C.E. and St. Patrick's R.C. which have other premises rented for them, and only two schools—Healey C.E. and St. Edward's C.E. where the children have to travel to a joint canteen. In the latter cases there are seldom more than two pupils involved.

A new and more commodious kitchen has been erected at the Girls' High School and has a capacity of 500 meals daily. This will more than meet the needs of the whole school.

Plans for additional school kitchens and canteens are at present with the Ministry of Education.

### **Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.**

Our thanks are again due to the N.S.P.C.C., the St. Annes Convalescent Home and the Moorland Home for assistance in their various capacities.

### **Employment of Children and Young Persons.**

The number of school children medically examined prior to registration as part-time workers was 237 during 1945.

### **Mentally Defective Children.**

The complete examination of a child suspected of mental deficiency takes more time and patience than any other work of the school medical officer in proportion to the numbers dealt with. In times of staff shortage this work is the most likely to be left because there is in any case little or no suitable provision for such children.

During the past year as much time as could be spared from more pressing work has been devoted to the examination of sub-normal children, chiefly during the school holidays. Four boys and two girls were notified to the Mental Deficiency Authority as ineducable. The average number of notified ineducable defectives below the age of 16 in this town is about twenty and since little or nothing is done for them by the Mental Deficiency Authority, most of them are at home doing nothing and are a constant source of anxiety to everyone who realises their plight.

Many other examinations, including the assessing of intelligence quotients, were made of other mentally handicapped children and fifty names have already been put on a special list from which to choose candidates for our proposed special school. This work continues.

### Cost of Medical Inspection.

The cost of this Department from 1st April, 1944 to 31st March, 1945, was as follows :—

|                                                | £      | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| Salaries ... ..                                | 3,982  | 6  | 4  |
| Printing, Stationery and Postage ... ..        | 73     | 19 | 4  |
| Drugs, Materials, Apparatus, Spectacles ... .. | 483    | 13 | 10 |
| Hospital, Nursing Associations, etc. ... ..    | 416    | 5  | 6  |
| Travelling ... ..                              | 60     | 3  | 10 |
| Rent ... ..                                    | 454    | 0  | 3  |
| Upkeep of Premises ... ..                      | 59     | 15 | 9  |
| Fuel, Light and Cleaning... ..                 | 54     | 11 | 2  |
| Conveyance of Children ... ..                  | 104    | 3  | 0  |
| Other Expenses ... ..                          | 188    | 7  | 6  |
| Child Guidance (Salaries, Clinic, etc.) ... .. | 607    | 6  | 2  |
|                                                | <hr/>  |    |    |
|                                                | £6,484 | 12 | 8  |
|                                                | <hr/>  |    |    |
| Recovered from parents ... ..                  | £254   | 18 | 10 |

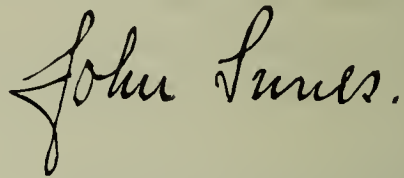
From all these Tables and the work which they represent the following general impressions were gathered.

The nutritional standard of the children remains satisfactory. There can be no doubt that the school meals and milk in schools are largely responsible for this result. Apart from the immediate good effects of these dietary adjuncts there is also to be considered the continual process in education of what a child should eat. It is found that the children who have been through this process take more readily to a properly varied diet than do those who have not had this advantage.

The general health of the children was good and there was a marked decrease in infectious diseases as a whole. Some of the figures would suggest an increase in certain forms of disability, but most of these apparent increases are explained by more extensive seeking out through increased routine inspections. It is unfortunate that the time spent by School Nurses with the Doctor at these inspections and the increased clerical work which results have diminished the time available for home visiting.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the high standard of the work done by the Medical, Dental and Nursing staffs, as well as the volume of such work.

The thanks of the Department are due to the Education Committee and to the Director of Education for encouragement and support throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Jones." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Medical Officer of Health and  
School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
ROCHDALE.  
27th August, 1946.

**TABLE I.**

**Medical Inspection and Treatment Returns**  
**Year ended 31st December, 1945.**

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

**A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

Number of Inspections :—

|                                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Entrants                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —     |
| Second Age Group                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1454  |
| Third Age Group                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1063  |
| Total                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,517 |
| Number of other Routine Inspections... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 556   |
| Grand Total                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,073 |

**B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.**

|                                                  |     |     |     |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections | ... | ... | ... | 2,835 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|

**TABLE II.**

**Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year**  
**in the routine age-groups**

| Number of<br>Children<br>Inspected | A.<br>(Excellent) |     | B.<br>(Normal) |      | C.<br>(Slightly<br>subnormal) |     | D.<br>(Bad) |     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------|------|-------------------------------|-----|-------------|-----|
|                                    | No.               | %   | No.            | %    | No.                           | %   | No.         | %   |
| 3073                               | 175               | 5.7 | 2781           | 90.5 | 115                           | 3.7 | 2           | 0.1 |

**TABLE III.**

**GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness).**

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under  
the Authority's Scheme : 4,824.

## GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

|                                                                              |     |     |     |     |     | Under the<br>Authority's Scheme |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
| Errors of Refraction (including squint)                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 552                             |
| Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those<br>recorded in Group I) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —                               |
| Total                                                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 552                             |
| No. of children for whom spectacles were :—                                  |     |     |     |     |     |                                 |
| (a) Prescribed                                                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 529                             |
| (b) Obtained                                                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 405                             |

## GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

|                                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Received Operative Treatment      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 225 |
| Received other forms of Treatment | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49  |
| Total number                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 274 |

## TABLE IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

|                                                            |     |                 |       |       |     |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| (1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist—           |     |                 |       |       |     |       |
| (a) Routine age-groups                                     | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ... | 10809 |
| (b) Specials                                               | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ... | 316   |
| (c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)                           | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ... | 11125 |
| (2) Number found to require treatment                      | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ... | 5485  |
| (3) Number actually treated...                             | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ... | 3015  |
| (4) Attendances made by children for treatment...          | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ... | 3424  |
| (5) Half-days devoted to—Inspection                        | ... | 104             |       |       |     |       |
| Treatment                                                  | ... | 554             | Total | ...   | ... | 658   |
| (6) Fillings—Permanent teeth                               | ... | ...             | 2005  |       |     |       |
| Temporary teeth                                            | ... | ...             | 360   | Total | ... | 2365  |
| (7) Extractions—Permanent teeth                            | ... | ...             | 309   |       |     |       |
| Temporary teeth                                            | ... | ...             | 2713  | Total | ... | 3022  |
| (8) Administrations of General anæsthetics for extractions | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ... | 276   |
| (9) Other operations                                       | ... | Permanent teeth | 777   |       |     |       |
|                                                            | ... | Temporary teeth | 192   | Total | ... | 969   |

**TABLE V.—Verminous Conditions.**

|                                                                                                          |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| (i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses ... ..                | 9     |
| (ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses ... ..                    | 20661 |
| (iii.) Number of individual children found unclean ... ..                                                | 1936  |
| (iv.) Number of individual children cleansed under Sec. 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921 ... .. | —     |
| (v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—                                            |       |
| (a) Under the Education Act, 1921 ... ..                                                                 | —     |
| (b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws ... ..                                                           | —     |

**TABLE VI.—Blind and Deaf Children.**

No. of totally, or almost, blind and deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return should relate to **all** such children including evacuees resident in the Authority's area.

|                   | At a Public<br>Elementary<br>School | At an Institution<br>other than a<br>Special School | At no School<br>or Institution |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blind Children... | —                                   | —                                                   | —                              |
| Deaf Children ... | —                                   | —                                                   | —                              |

